

change. If the business had increased in other respects, so also had the Department been relieved by the transfer of this large branch of the work that had been connected with the office to another Department. But was it to be forgotten that his right hon. friend not only discharged the duties of Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, embracing, as they did, the whole management and control connected with not only the general organization of the Mounted Police Force, but all the ministerial part of the functions connected with this organization—but also, at that time, was the Prime Minister of the country. He had no hesitation in saying that the duties were very onerous; and he was astonished when he read the speech of the hon. member for South Bruce at Teeswater, in which the hon. gentleman went into a statement that, he thought, was scarcely worthy of the hon. gentleman's attention at such great length—in reference to the amount of telegraphing and contingent expenditure that had been connected with the office of the Minister of Justice, and drew a most unfair comparison between his own administration of the office and the administration of his right hon. friend. It was unworthy of the great talents and high position of the then Minister of Justice to descend, as he thought the hon. gentleman did, to the most unfair representation in reference to this matter. He had no hesitation in saying—and he spoke from a personal knowledge of public affairs for about twenty-four years, some considerable portion of which had been spent in a position to give him some knowledge of the duties and responsibilities and demands upon one's time and purse connected with the matters—that the hon. member for South Bruce not only ignored the fact that during the whole tenure of office by the right hon. gentleman until the last few months he was relieved from its duties, the right hon. gentleman received a salary of \$5,000 instead of \$7,000; and, if the hon. gentleman did not ignore the fact, it was altogether lost sight of in the comparison which he made respecting the duties discharged by a Prime Minister when he was Minister of Justice,

which involved more expenditure for telegraphing, and in relation to the contingent expenditures of the office, than the contingencies and telegraphing connected with the office of Minister of Justice.

MR. BLAKE: Hear, hear.

MR. TUPPER said the hon. gentleman said "hear, hear," but he spoke advisedly when he said that while the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Finance were open to be communicated with and bombarded with telegrams from all parts of the Dominion in regard to the limited duties that came under their administration, whoever was the First Minister in this country was open; and not only open, but constantly so, to be communicated with by telegram and in every other way by parties from one end of this wide Dominion to the other, not in connection with the duties of the office of Minister of Justice, but in connection with the general administration of affairs. A party might feel aggrieved with reference to communications with the Minister of Public Works or the Minister of the Interior or any other of the other twelve,—and what was his first act? He appealed at once to the First Minister and sent a lengthy telegram to state his case, enquire what was to be done under the circumstances, and to call upon him for interference; so the hon. member for South Bruce, he thought, had lost sight of the fact, which if he had given sufficient weight and consideration to it, would have prevented him, under the circumstances, from drawing an unfavourable contrast and dwelling on a matter, and with relation to circumstances, that, considering the great questions then occupying the public attention of this country, were thus rendered comparatively insignificant. He would say merely that every word which the hon. member for South Bruce uttered in his own vindication and in placing himself at an advantage in regard to this comparison with his right hon. friend, was a censure on the hon. gentleman's chief. If the hon. gentleman had taken up the Public Accounts and examined these very expenditures connected with the Depart-