

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. No doubt that is so. In fact, I am told that he already regrets his docile majority here. The hon. gentleman, however, has given no explanation of the duties of the new Deputy-Minister. I have heard that there was a venerable Dean who was summoned to give evidence before a committee of the House of Commons in England and he was asked what his duties were. He replied that his duties were the usual duties of a dean in a Cathedral establishment. Then they sent for a sub-dean and asked him what his duties were and he said they were the usual duties of a sub-dean in a Cathedral establishment. What I want to know is what are the duties of a Deputy-Minister of Trade and Commerce? Perhaps my hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Wood) knows, as he is now actively concerned in the department. Really I do not see the object of retaining a Deputy-Minister of Trade and Commerce. I do not know what position Mr. Bowell is to assume to the two gentlemen we have here. Perhaps they do not know, and perhaps he does not know, but I took it for granted that the Department of Trade and Commerce, if it had any purpose except the duplication of the number of members of the Government in this House, had for its purpose that the Minister should exercise a wise supervision over the trade policy of the country apart from the administration of that policy; and while he might require two or three clerks, a stenographer, a private secretary, a messenger and so forth, I do not understand for what he can require a Deputy-Minister. Before we vote this amount for what is practically—with all respect to the Minister of Finance—a new office, we ought to know what duties the Deputy-Minister can have to perform. I cannot see what he can have to do, and I know enough to the habits of Deputy-Ministers to be aware that they will, if possible, live up to the dignity of their office, and the idea of dignity which they convey to the public is by means of having a numerous staff around them.

Mr. FOSTER. We have not provided for that numerous staff.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That is to come. You have sown the seed and you will have the fruit.

Mr. FOSTER. That cannot be unless Parliament votes the money, and I do not suppose that my hon. friend would begrudge a larger vote if it were shown, in the development of the branch of Trade and Commerce, that good would result to the country from the work of that department. The story which my hon. friend has told about the dean and the sub-dean ought to be applied to himself. Any man in holy orders would be satisfied with the answers that were given. Now, a gentleman who has had charge of a department, who has had a deputy to help him to administer his department, knows what the duties of a Deputy-Minister are.

Consequently, no explanation is necessary for my hon. friend. I may say, as I said before, that the Department of Trade and Commerce is but commenced, the development and organization of it are largely to come, and the work will be taken up and the sphere of its duties increased in ways which will be, I have no doubt, beneficial to the country. For instance, at the present time, my hon. friend the Minister of Commerce has the administration of the steamship subsidies, these having heretofore belonged to my own department, but now, as appertaining more especially to trade and commerce, they have been transferred to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. That of itself is a large and important field. I have been instituting, the last two or three years, a system of consular officers or commercial correspondents in different countries. These are now under the management of the Minister of Trade and Commerce; and as the main body of the Estimates will show, it is proposed to carry out that policy gradually towards a larger development of what my hon. friend from Brant thinks to be a wise and good policy for this country to adopt in the extension of trade. These are two important things. Then, the whole question of the development of trade between our country and foreign countries comes directly under the sphere of the Department of Trade and Commerce, which will also take advantage of whatever opportunities may present themselves for promoting that object, and the executive in all these matters will be the Minister of Trade and Commerce. If my hon. friend were to be made Minister of Trade and Commerce, the very first thing he would do would be to get one of the most efficient men he could find, as far as knowledge of trade and commerce go, to assist him in carrying out the work which pertained to his department. It would not do at all for him to be tied down to his work with a second-class clerk, a stenographer and a messenger; that would not at all fulfil the necessities for the working of his department. Not being myself the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I have not thought so deeply over this as my hon. friend in the other House has done. I am a little sorry that he is not here to explain his views and the methods by which he proposes to carry out those views. I do not know whether I have satisfied my hon. friend; if he requires more information I shall have to consult with the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and then give the information to the House more in extenso.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman, before he took the responsibility of advising the establishment of this new department of Government, surely satisfied himself that it was a necessity, and he was asked to give to the House the grounds upon which he came to that conclusion. He has fairly explained the matter by