

if not, he (Mr. Dorion) was at a loss to know what the unfortunate Minister of Marine would do. That famous Minister of Militia who had recently noticed that he had had charge of nearly every department, and had accomplished his work well, would not, it might readily be inferred, allow this branch of his duties to be filched from him. (Laughter). Again, the Minister of Marine had jurisdiction over all wharves, harbours, etc. but these belonged to the Minister of Public Works. Where was the line to be drawn? How could the conflict of authority be settled? The only way he (Mr. Dorion) could account for the division of offices and work was that it was made to suit honourable gentlemen opposite, so as to give each of these thirteen Cabinet Ministers a show of something to do, and that it was not planned with any idea to convenience the public. He could not understand this departmental system in the least. To revert to the President of the Council, here was an office allowed to lapse while admittedly a necessity. Then, also an office which was more than ever a necessity, inasmuch as it left the only discontented section of the Dominion, Nova Scotia, without that due representation in the Cabinet to which it had been declared entitled. He would, at this stage, proceed for a moment to examine where this system of a set representation of so many ministers from each section would lead to. It would lead necessarily to having two ministers from Prince Edward Island, two from Newfoundland and two from the North-West. This would give 19 ministers. Then there was the other new Province knocking at the door for admission into the Union, British Columbia. That would need two more, making in all 21 representatives in the Cabinet when there would be a union of all the British North American Colonies. Here the absurdity of the principle laid down by the leader of the Government was apparent, and he (Mr. Dorion) hoped they would not persist in the proposition.

**Hon. Mr. Cartier** said that the House must have listened to the honourable member for Hochelaga, if not with surprise, at least with pain. The honourable member, the leader of Lower Canada democracy, objected to the unfortunate number of thirteen. Perhaps he would recommend seven, the number of the Cardinal sins. (Much laughter) (**Hon. T. W. Anglin**—and the gifts of the Holy Ghost.) He had never, in that wicked House, expected to hear anything holy spoken of. (Renewed laughter.) He was himself aston-

ished at the new democratic application of the doctrine that power should be oligarchically confined. Their duty had been to harmonize the varying interests of all sections of the country, and to lay each of them fully before His Excellency, the Governor-General. The number thirteen, however, had not been adopted absolutely or finally, and was to be held liable to modification by successive Ministries. Referring to the Constitution of the Cabinet he showed that while his Province had yielded cheerfully to the claims of Ontario, she had not exacted the same deference from the Lower Provinces, and he was glad to take that opportunity of acknowledging, in this respect, the liberal generosity of the representatives and the people of Lower Canada. But it was impossible that Quebec could be adequately represented by a lesser number than four, while it was very difficult that the various Ontario parties could have less than five among them. There were one million of Frenchmen in Quebec, and he asked if three out of thirteen was an excessive Cabinet proportion for such a number. Then the 250,000 or 300,000 of English descent must also be considered, for no Government could possibly stand which failed in the confidence of that Community. (Hear, hear.) It might be thought that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick got more than their share in the originally adopted distribution, but it must be recollected that they had been independent provinces, and the count of heads must not always be permitted to outweigh every other consideration. Referring to the histories of previous Canadian Governments, he stated that the principle of British Administration was based upon the diffusion of power as far as possible, and denied that there was any analogy in the comparison sought to be drawn between American institutions and our own. The President of the United States was independent of Congress, except when they impeached him, (laughter,) and the Secretaries of State were not responsible Ministers, bound to bring into harmony the legislative and executive authorities, but merely chief clerks in their respective departments. He hoped that the honourable member would reflect before he again went to the United States for examples of administrative excellence, even on the suggestion of his colleague from Chateauguay, remembering that the legislative powers had there grown into a despotism, and not forgetting the existing unseemly squabble regarding the occupancy of the Secretaryship of War. The number of Ministers had never been definitely