

expected. But what has been done? The Government, as every one knows, has overcrowded every public office; but, as their friends have said, the salaries that have been paid have been very small, smaller, indeed, than the Conservatives had given. How does this agree with the hon. gentleman's pronouncement, "Reduce the number of officers, but pay them well." In every public office where changes have been effected—and they have been made wherever any possible pretext could be found—*no such reductions have been made, either in numbers or expense*, while very frequently an *additional public servant has been appointed*, without any regard to his experience or, indeed, his moral qualifications. Then, again, Mr. Mercier declared it to be his policy to reduce the number of Cabinet ministers. He retains the same number, with the addition of two members without portfolio, while according to semi-official declarations, there are one or two portfolios yet *in nubibus*.<sup>o</sup>

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#### ACTING PREMIER TURCOTTE.

The career of this gentleman has been *peculiar*. Elected to the Legislature as a Conservative, he before long discovered substantial reasons for changing his mind and soon became noted for his devotion to the party whose cause he had espoused. *By him and by his vote as Speaker, the Joly Government maintained themselves in power against the majority of the House*, for it was only by their own individual votes as members that they secured a tie, and *without their own votes they were in a minority*. When, therefore, the Mercier régime came in it was but natural that Mr. Turcotte should have some consideration. But the position he occupies is an anomalous one. He became *Minister without portfolio*—a device for the purpose of *contravening all the professions and promises made by the Liberals in the past that they would not augment the number of Cabinet officers*. As acting premier, Mr. Turcotte has done his friends good service, even if his administration has not tended to promote the public welfare. It is notorious that while discharging the duties of his office, Mr. Turcotte has incurred *very considerable expenses*. *These will have to be paid by the public* in some shape or form. The question is, how will this be