

fore, saw no reason why the Department should be divided and another Department created for some needy legal hanger-on of the Administration. That the office of Receiver-General might not be necessary, he quite admitted. He was not going to stand up for the maintenance of an office which public opinion seemed to consider unnecessary, and he admitted that the office of Receiver-General might very properly be merged in the Department of Finance; but why should the Government think it necessary to create another legal officer, unless it was simply to provide an office for some one of their legal followers. The Government, before they asked this House to approve of the Bill, must show that such additional legal assistance was necessary, that the Department of the Minister of Justice was over-worked. He (Mr. Mitchell) never found it so during the Administration of which he was a member for seven years, and he had heard no complaints from the gentlemen who had held that office at any time. About the only Minister of Justice who gave him satisfaction in that capacity was the Hon. Mr. Justice Fournier. He had occasion to apply to that gentleman once, and he had the case promptly dealt with; and he believed Mr. Fournier discharged the duties of the Department very well. What, then, were the facts that the Government had to show to this Parliament, and to the country, as the reasons for creating another Department? He did not know the hon. gentlemen whom the Government was desirous of bringing into office. Rumour said they desired to bring in the present Premier of Ontario as Attorney-General. He was not prepared to say whether that was so or not, but such was rumour. He was quite satisfied that such an officer was unnecessary; the present Minister of Justice, he was satisfied, was quite able to do the work. If that hon. gentleman would frankly state to the House that he was unable to do it, hon. members would have some grounds for considering it. He (Mr. Mitchell) was opposed to the creation of office for the purpose of strengthening the hands of any Ministry, and he did not see why the hon. member for Shelbourne (Mr. Coffin) should be made

**MR. MITCHELL.**

one of the political stools of this Administration. They took a more summary way with Mr. Ross, the late Minister of Militia. They said, "You must go; you must walk out;" but in the present instance, they said, "We will legislate you out of existence; we will bury you quietly." However, they had determined to abolish the office of Receiver-General, and, as he said before, it might be advisable; but he must enter his protest against attaching to the expenditure of this country \$10,000 or \$12,000 annually for an Attorney-General, when, for years, the Minister of Justice had been sufficient, and was sufficient at the present time. The business had been behind-hand sometimes, the business of all Departments might get behind from neglect; but if the hon. Minister chose to attend to his work he was quite able to perform the duties of that Department. There seemed to be a little incongruity in this Bill. There were two points which struck him as very peculiar. First, they had it provided in the 6th Section that the Deputy Minister of Justice might also be Deputy to the Attorney-General of Canada. Now, they had it on scriptural authority that a man could not serve two masters, and he believed that one officer could not serve as deputy to the Minister of Justice and to the gentleman coming in as Attorney-General at the same time. This was a new feature in the departmental life of Canada. They had had two deputies to one head before, but never two heads and only one deputy. This innovation seemed to be quite out of place and he did not think it was calculated to work well. Then, take sections 7 and 8; if any hon. gentleman would read them and inform him what they meant, he would be obliged, for he could not, for the life of him, understand what was meant by them. They were models of composition. The first read:

"The second sub-section of section one of the Act passed in the thirty-first year of Her Majesty's reign (1868), chapter twenty-five and the sixth section of that Act, are hereby respectively amended by inserting after the words 'Minister of Justice' therein, the words 'Attorney-General,' and by striking out the words, 'Receiver-General' where they now occur therein, and inserting the