

Any hon. gentleman called upon to select a Ministry of twelve or thirteen names of course select a few of the leading spirits, but he would find that the very existence of the inequality would be a source of heart burning and intense discord. It was quite true that some of the offices involved an immense amount of work as compared with others, but the better we adhered to the principle of equality, the better they would secure harmony and concord among the member of the Government. These were the reasons which induced him to introduce the resolutions in their present form. The President of the Council for instance was an office to which no particularly heavy duties were attached, but it was an office that was absolutely necessary nevertheless. The President presided over the Privy Council in the absence of the Governor General. His own opinion was unless the person selected to form an Administration held the office of Minister of Justice or Minister of Finance, as a general rule he ought to be the President of the Council.

The political duties of the First Minister were so great that he ought to have as few departmental duties as possible. In England he was first Lord of the Treasury, although it was well known he had no work to do in connection with the Treasury. He had himself felt very much as Minister of Justice and Attorney General that duties attached to his office interfered very considerably with his efficiency as First Minister. Duties were increasing, and, although not in his day, it would unquestionably soon be necessary to have that Department organized upon a very much larger scale than at present. He, however, had taken to office on the principle of Natural Selection, having been Attorney General for the West for many years, and it being absolutely necessary that either he or the Attorney General for Lower Canada should take the office of Minister of Justice; but, as he had said before, in his opinion the First Minister, as a general rule, should hold some such office as President of the Council or Receiver General—same office which, in attention to details, would not withdraw his attention from the general administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE quite admitted the first part of the hon. gentleman's remarks, that was that the First Minister should not have the charge of any heavy department, the duties of which

devolving upon him would necessarily take up the greater portion of his time. Notwithstanding the remarks of the hon. leader of the Government, to which no doubt considerable weight would have to be attached, he remained of the same opinion. He admitted that difficulties might be experienced such as he (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) had pointed out, but on the other hand the manifest importance of some offices as contrasted with others, must be patent to every one.

The public, he thought, could only appreciate the difference that should exist between the different offices. They found a Minister, sometimes, took a higher rank. Now, a higher rank simply meant the imposition of a much larger amount of work, with more responsible duties, than he previously held, while a junior stepped in who had, perhaps, never been much in Parliament, and who had never been in a Government before, and received an equal salary for the discharge of duties which required comparatively little ability compared with other offices of the Government. He did not think that promotion in the Government should consist in the imposition of increased duties and responsibility, and he believed the views he had expressed were views that would obtain concurrence generally in the country. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Committee rose and reported the resolutions.

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NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL LAWS

Mr. COSTIGAN asked the leader of the Government whether he was prepared to answer the question put by him on a former occasion as to whether His Excellency had been advised to disallow the New Brunswick School Law.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he hoped to be able to give him an answer on Monday.

The House adjourned at 11.43 p.m.