

no one knows better than the hon. gentleman who holds a prominent position in the profession, that some of the most eminent judges in Ontario who were Liberals were appointed by Sir John Macdonald, among them I might mention Mr. Blake, Judge McMahon and Mr. McLennen, who formerly represented Victoria, and who has been promoted by the present government to the Supreme Court bench. I never heard fault found with any of those judges. In Manitoba Judge Killam was appointed by the late government. Every one respected his character, and will always look back with pleasure at his record as being a man of extraordinary ability. The present government very properly placed him at the head of the Railway Commission, where he did good service for the country, and has left a name of which his descendants may well be proud. These are only a few cases to which I could call attention. The hon. senator from Halifax objects to the suggestion I made because he says it is not English but American. Those who know me, need not be told that I have not very strong feelings in favour of United States politicians, or the system that prevails in that country, but I am not prepared to say that everything there is objectionable. There are many points in the character of the people and in their legislation which we might with profit follow in this country. We should follow English precedent he says. Does any one suppose that the same prejudices do not exist even in the case of the Civil Service Commission in England, that prevail in other parts of the world? Human nature is human nature. I know that it is necessary in England to have influence to secure promotion in the civil service. A distant connection of mine writes me that although he has passed the promotion examination, and is in a position to claim promotion for his long services, it is impossible for him to get it unless he can bring influence to bear upon certain persons. He does not hold a prominent position in society, and although he is entitled to promotion, he cannot secure it without influence. It will be the same here. In order to remove any friction in the future, and to prevent charges being made against the commissioners in select-

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

ing officers, I have made this suggestion. I fully concur in that clause of the Civil Service Act which places these commissioners above and beyond the influence of the government of the day. It is an admirable provision. Though the law may be changed in order to get rid of commissioners, it is not so likely to be done as it would be if they were there during the pleasure of the people who appointed them. I do not wish it to be understood that I think two gentlemen appointed to this important position could not act judicially and without prejudice; but it is the tendency of human nature to give your favours to your friends and to act on their suggestion and advice. I know when I had favours to give, I did as others had done, bestow them on my friends, but when it came to promoting those already in office, then merit and nothing else was allowed to prevail. In all the cases to which hon. gentlemen opposite have called attention, where judges who were Conservatives have been given higher positions, they were already on the bench and had proved their fitness for promotion. Judge Barker stands high in his profession and socially. Judge Townsend was also on the bench. I hope that in the carrying out of this Civil Service Act it will be, as far as practical, removed from the political influences which have surrounded appointments in the past. I hope the hon. Secretary of State will act upon the suggestion of the hon. senator from Calgary and consult with his colleagues as to the propriety of making the change suggested.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I think the statement made by the hon. senator from Calgary, as to the appointment of Judge Phippen is very unfair, and should not be allowed to go abroad uncontradicted. I do not think the hon. gentleman intended to go so far as to say that Judge Phippen was only selected because the local government refused to proclaim the Act unless he was appointed. I know the contrary to be the fact, that he was selected on account of his ability to fill the position of judge. It is a reflection on him to say that he was only appointed because his political friends in the Manitoba