

of National War Services was very fair in his suggestions, but in the province from which I come there were only two hon. members who carried out those suggestions. In the other fourteen ridings the appointments of both registrars and deputy registrars were made on a partisan basis. Therefore the minister will have to take this matter in hand and issue definite instructions, if it is to be done on a non-partisan basis. I believe the Canadian Legion have undertaken to do all they can to see that a large vote is got out, and an affirmative vote; I think it behooves the department in charge to do all they can to employ these men, who probably need a little assistance.

Mr. ROEBUCK: On this matter of partisanship, I am reminded of the old saying that:

The devil was sick, the devil a monk would be;
The devil was well, the devil a monk was he.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Are you not feeling very well?

Mr. ROEBUCK: I am feeling fine. I have had experience with my hon. friends across the way on a good many occasions and never in my experience have I known a Conservative government, when they were in power, to do anything except on the most strictly partisan basis.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In my constituency, at my request, when we were in power, the sheriff was appointed returning officer. He was an old-time Liberal, and a very fine man.

Mr. ROEBUCK: My hon. friend is an outstanding exception. In connection with the national registration, as far as the city of Toronto was concerned there was a gentleman's agreement that we would divide up the so-called patronage in that way. I did it to the very last letter, to the *n*th degree, to the crossing of the *t*'s and the dotting of the *i*'s. I appointed the president, I think, or the secretary of the Conservative association as assistant to the registrar, and that gentleman has been kind enough to say that the matter was carried out in a splendid non-partisan way. But unfortunately those conditions did not prevail in some of the constituencies over which hon. gentlemen opposite presided; we had strict partisanship to the full extent of their ability to apply it against us. It is very nice for hon. gentlemen opposite to take these lofty attitudes when they are not in power. I hope if they ever do come to power—

Mr. ROWE: We won't have a plebiscite.

Mr. ROEBUCK: —they will remember their exalted statements of the present time. It may be a long time, so perhaps we need not consider it.

There is another thing I want to say. It is very fine to talk about patriotism and giving time to the public interest and that sort of thing. The public is doing that, and I hope a considerable amount of it will be done in the riding which I represent. At the same time I feel sure that if we ask the poor people, the very poor people, of most of these constituencies to give their time free of charge, while we are paying everyone else the full value of their services—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Including ourselves.

Mr. ROEBUCK: Including ourselves and including the leader of the opposition—

Mr. ROWE: He is earning his.

Mr. ROEBUCK: —we shall receive criticism for our pains. I do not see why we should ask poor people to be the only ones to give their services free. When the manufacturers, for instance, refused to accept a five per cent limitation on their profits in the early stages of the war, I am not particularly enthusiastic over asking common people who perhaps need the money to give their day's time free. If they wish to do it, all right, but I am not in favour of pressing them unduly and taking advantage of their patriotism.

Section agreed to.

Section 10 agreed to.

Bill reported.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Vien in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

42. Grant to the International Red Cross committee, \$10,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The purpose of calling this item to-night is simply to have the department get into committee of supply. The item may stand.

Item stands.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like if possible to get another item—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You have three now.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It relates only to giving the ministers who happen to be here on Thursday or Friday an opportunity to take up their estimates. If my hon. friend would not object to allowing a post office item to be called—