

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The minister has appointed this young man inspector of fruit, because he had studied law.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No.

Mr. WADE. Because he did not practice law.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend (Mr. Wade) corrects me; because this young man had studied law and not practiced it, and because his father had purchased a fruit farm while this young man was at college. I do not know whether the Minister of Justice would think it worth while to appoint some gentleman to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada because that gentleman had been an apple grower, but it would be just as sensible for him to do so as for the Minister of Agriculture to appoint a man as a fruit inspector because he was a lawyer. If the Minister of Justice was able to go a little further, he would be still more in line with the Minister of Agriculture who says that this young man is qualified because his father owned a fruit farm; carrying out the same idea, the Minister of Justice might appoint some person to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada because that person's father had owned a law library. Whatever Mr. McKinnon may develop into in the future, it is plain from the statement of the Minister of Agriculture that he had no qualification for this position when the minister appointed him. No one objects to this young man being appointed because he is a Liberal, but the objection is that he should not be appointed for that reason alone.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not done so.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The fact is that this young gentleman's father was inspector of schools until after this young man began to go to college and study law, when the father purchased a fruit farm. There is no suggestion that the young man ever had anything to do with the management of that farm, although perhaps he might come home during the summer vacation and see apples and peaches growing on the trees.

An hon. MEMBER. Peaches on stems.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). He had the additional merit of observing stems on peach trees which I believe do not exist, but even that did not qualify him to be a fruit inspector.

As to his having any special qualification outside of that, he has none unless, the fact that he has studied law constitutes a qualification. I could understand, if a man had practiced law, that the knowledge of business which had come to him in that way might be of some service in a matter of this kind; but I should think that the mere academic knowledge of law which a young

man had derived at college would confer the least possible qualification for the position assigned to this gentleman. I certainly have never found in my experience that the mere academic study of law or anything else particularly fits a man to organize or transact business such as the hon. gentleman says enters into the duties of this position. I think the hon. Minister of Agriculture has been led away by his doctrine of free trade in this matter—He desires to make the occupation of fruit-growing and a knowledge of the law reciprocate with each other. If that principle be carried out in the cabinet, it will be necessary for my hon. friend the Minister of Justice to consider the agricultural qualifications of any candidate for a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court or any of the superior courts in the provinces; because the experience of a lawyer is about as necessary or useful to the position which the Minister of Agriculture has assigned to this gentleman as the business of fruit-growing is to the appointment of any person to a place on the bench of a court.

Mr. HEYD. I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to the arguments which our friends on the other side have brought against the appointment of Mr. McKinnon, but they are not such as to influence me at all in endorsing the action of the Minister of Agriculture. It appears to me that one of the best evidences that this young man is qualified is the very fact that his father is a candidate for the Local Legislature in a fruit-growing district. If the people there feared that his appointment would result in injury to the fruit-growers, that would be one of the main reasons why his father would not be a candidate for the Local House. One-half the people at any rate in that section have confidence not only in the father, but also in the son. One of the peculiar arguments brought forward to-day, I presume with the idea of having a little sport, is the injurious effect that will follow from the fact of this inspector's father being a candidate. Now, I would like to know where our friends are going to draw the line. Are they going to exclude a man from running for the Local Legislature because his son happens to be an official of the Federal government? Or are they going to prevent a man being appointed to any office because his father or his cousin happens to be a candidate? How far are the ties of consanguinity going to extend? What do these hon. gentlemen want? Do they want the father to stop running, or the son to resign? It seems to me that the greatest crime the young man has committed is that of being the son of a father who is a candidate for the Local Legislature.

Mr. WADE. I think it is only fair that, representing the county where this gentleman has been performing a part of his duties, I should state to the House what opinion the people there have of him. I