

Mr. BENNETT: I was not suggesting that he was.

Mr. ROGERS: To my knowledge Mr. Stansbury has had no connection whatever with any one of these contracting companies. To my knowledge he has not had any part in the awarding of any government contracts from which he has benefited in the slightest degree. But his predecessor—

Mr. BENNETT: We shall see about that. What about his garage? What was it built with? Where did the stone come from?

Mr. ROGERS: He has no garage, to my knowledge.

Mr. BENNETT: Near his house, on his lot?

Mr. ROGERS: As to that I do not know.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, find out.

Mr. ROGERS: Certainly my right hon. friend seems to have made a special purpose of conducting a minute investigation in the constituency of Kingston, if he is now coming down to the question of the garage in the yard of the president of the Liberal association of that constituency.

Mr. BENNETT: If he built it with public property, that is my duty.

An hon. MEMBER: Did he?

Mr. BENNETT: He certainly did.

Mr. ROGERS: Let my hon. friend make a charge and I will make an investigation. Probably my right hon. friend is no more correct in that information than he was in his earlier information. I am quite content to have the matter investigated at once; I want to make that perfectly clear.

Mr. BENNETT: What is more, there has been interference with the course of justice with respect to it.

Mr. ROGERS: With respect to those other appointments, casual vacancies which have occurred from time to time in the operation of the departments, it is a matter for this house to determine whether or not all these appointments should be brought within the Civil Service Act. If they are brought within that act, then certainly it becomes our duty to observe that act. But my right hon. friend may recall an order in council which gives the Prime Minister certain prerogatives having to do with the appointment of deputy ministers, senators and judges. My right hon. friend was also Secretary of State for External Affairs. He had it within his power to determine who should be appointed to high diplomatic posts. What is patronage?

[Mr. Rogers.]

As I understand patronage—and I endeavour to deal with this thing in the open, not in the language of scribes and pharisees—patronage is giving preference to friends of the political administration in office. Will my right hon. friend describe it otherwise? And if that is so, is he prepared to rise in his place and say that with respect to these high appointments he did not exercise patronage in that sense of the word? My right hon. friend smiles. Why does he smile? Is it prerogative for the rich and patronage for the poor? Is that the explanation? Or, if that is not the explanation, what is it? The whole truth of the matter is—

Mr. BENNETT: That is good.

Mr. ROGERS:—that it is infinitely better that we should deal with this question frankly and openly. I told my right hon. friend when he first brought it up—and he will agree with me in this—that so far as these relief works are concerned, there is a clause providing against political discrimination, and I am for the observance of that. It is my duty and my inclination. So far as these other appointments are concerned, while they remain outside the civil service I have accepted the recommendations of my executive; and I doubt if there is another member of this house, whose party has been in power, including the right hon. the leader of the opposition, who has not done precisely the same thing. I think that should be understood distinctly while we are discussing this question.

Mr. BENNETT: I was careful enough when I first spoke of this matter to point out that I was not hypocrite enough to say that those who desire to deal with patronage in the ordinary sense had a right to do so. The minister has merely repeated what I said. I made that exception. I made it in his favour because I realized just what the situation was. But I might remind the minister that it is a little unfortunate that my own party friends have blamed me because they said I did not, when I had the right to exercise certain appointing powers, select sufficiently strong partisans.

Mr. STREIGHT: You did pretty well.

Mr. KINLEY: That is a common complaint.

Mr. BENNETT: That has been the complaint of my own friends.

Mr. McCANN: The common complaint. Your record will stand on that.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, indeed it will. I am happy to say it will. Men with fitness were appointed, and not men whose great claim