

my information is simply hearsay; that it did not come from any reliable or responsible source. But that is the information which I have received.

Mr. PUTNAM: Now you are frank yourself.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Well, I am telling you the truth. The hon. member who moved this resolution said that the Civil Service Commission was not responsible to anybody; that it was not clothed with the mantle of grace, and that it should not be allowed to exist. I must say I cannot agree with that. He says that the responsibility is cast upon him and other members of parliament when they come to Ottawa to advise His Excellency the Governor General how the affairs of the country should be conducted, and he asserts that he does not intend to shirk that responsibility. I do not know whether or not His Excellency would go out of business if the hon. gentleman did shirk that responsibility. However, he intimates that his business is to see about the appointments in his constituency, and he says that all appointments should be in the hands of the responsible parties—those who are elected by the people. Well, I suppose the hon. member would be frank enough to qualify that by admitting that the appointments should be made on the recommendation of supporters of the government, I do not suppose for one minute that he would give us on this side of the House any say in the matter of appointments. And what does that mean? It means that in respect of practically fifty per cent of the constituencies of this Dominion the appointments would have to be made by defeated Liberal candidates—persons in whom the electors did not have confidence. Would that be the proper thing? I submit not. If my hon. friend wished to do the right thing and would let us in on the appointments, there might be some force in his argument that the representatives of the people would then have some say in the appointments.

Mr. POWER: Will the hon. gentleman pardon me? If I accept his suggestion, will he vote for my resolution?

Mr. McQUARRIE: No, I certainly will not. I do not want the patronage; I never did want it, and I hope I never shall.

A great many things have been said to-night about the Civil Service Commission, about the system of appointments, and so on, but not one word of criticism has been directed towards appointments which have been made. How many cases have been cited here to-night of improper appointments which have been made by the commission? I have not heard of any

[Mr. McQuarrie.]

We only can speak with respect to our own constituencies. It is said that comparisons are odious, but sometimes I think they are useful, and I think it might be of interest to the House to know something about appointments that have been made by the Civil Service Commission out in British Columbia, just to show how the thing is working out. Within the last few months to my knowledge certain appointments have been made by the Civil Service Commission in British Columbia. One was that of warden of the penitentiary at New Westminster. He was appointed from the staff of the penitentiary. He had been employed in that institution for something like thirty years and was a man of high standing and thoroughly competent. He had previously held the positions of chief keeper and deputy warden. There is no criticism of his appointment.

The next is that of Crown timber agent at New Westminster. That also went to the man who had been assistant Crown timber agent for a great many years. That appointment was also quite satisfactory.

A collector of customs in Vancouver was also appointed. That position went to a man who had been collector of inland revenue at Vancouver for some years. He had been in the department for something like thirty-five years and was thoroughly competent and well qualified in every way. All these appointments have been made by the Civil Service Commission within the last few months, and all are satisfactory. That is one side of the picture.

Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House say, we can make better appointments if you let us go back to patronage. Well, they have made some appointments out there during the last few months. There were some vacancies on the Vancouver Harbour Board which this government has filled. The board is under the control, I think, of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. If I remember correctly the man who had been in the position of chairman of the board for some time, and who had performed his duties to the satisfaction of every one concerned, a thoroughly competent man, was asked for his resignation, together with the other members of the board, and appointments were made by the government under the old system of patronage. Who do you suppose they got for chairman of the board, Mr. Speaker? A man who had been a druggist up in the interior.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask my hon. friend who the chairman of the board is.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Mr. Beattie.