

allegations as to the state of the coal trade contained in the said petition, and into the best means of promoting Inter-Provincial trade.

CIVIL SERVICE.

MOTION TO PRINT REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. CASEY moved that the report of the Civil Service Committee and the evidence taken before it be printed, and that the rule enquiring reference to the Printing Committee be suspended. He considered that the report and the evidence was of considerable importance to the House and the public. When he moved for the Committee he felt that the result of the investigation would justify the labour taken and the expense incurred, and he was sure that hon. members would agree with him when they perused the report and the evidence. The return to an address that he had the honour of moving for did not contain as full information as he desired, and the inference was that something was lacking in the Departments which had not responded, as nearly all the information he asked ought to have been on the books of the Departments. Owing to this, the Committee had to depend almost entirely on the oral evidence of gentlemen of high standing in the service, all of whom gave evidence with great clearness, frankness and courtesy. The general result of the evidence he might state to be this. The Committee found that political influence had been, and was, to a considerable extent, at work in all Departments of the service, and that that interference had almost invariably been injurious to the service and led to violations of the law regulating it. The actual state of the service he could not say had been found good; but, on the other hand, it was not found scandalous. In some instances the heads of Departments stated that their men were as good as could be wished; but in one instance it was testified that the employés were not of as high quality as were to be found in banks. He thought when the House saw the report they would agree with him that the labour and expense of the Committee had not been spent in vain.

Mr. MACKAY.

They had been unable to go into the points brought out in the evidence at any great length in the report, and he thought the *ipsisima verba* of some of the witnesses would carry great weight.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he thought the printing of the evidence would be valuable to hon. members. He would like to ask the hon. chairman of the Committee whether the report dealt with the service as a whole.

Mr. CASEY : Yes.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD : Does it deal with the mode of selecting the higher officers.

Mr. CASEY : It does not deal with that question. The report dealt with the method of selecting men for appointments, the modes of making appointments, the question of promotion and the discipline in the Departments. The Committee did not deal with the question of the appointments of higher officials, because that was considered a matter which, under all circumstances, should be left to the responsibility of the Government of the day. The report recommended a double process of selection for employés—a means of selecting men to be taken on trial, and a further trial by probation before the appointment was confirmed. The selection of men on trial was recommended to be made as in England, that was to say, there should be first a qualifying examination to test the ordinary education and intelligence of men applying for appointments; and, secondly, competition between those who showed themselves to be qualified for the privilege of being taken on trial. Those who succeeded in competition were to be appointed conditionally to places in the Departments; but they were to have no claim to permanent employment until they had earned a favourable report from their immediate superiors before the close of a certain term—one year, or two years, or whatever it might be. Subsequent proceedings regarding promotion should take place on the *primâ facie* ground of seniority. When a vacancy occurred, the senior qualified officer should be promoted unless a junior was especially recommended to the post by those under whom he