

some advice, but he has not the final say, and as long as that is the practice, outside influence will enter into the appointment. When the minister said that the Civil Service Commission alone were responsible for the appointment of officials to the Post Office Department, he evidently had not appreciated what was laid before the House a few days ago.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Does my hon. friend mean to say that the Postmaster General in this particular case recommended that certain appointments be made?

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I moved for the correspondence between the post office inspectors, the Government and the Civil Service Commission relating to the appointment of rural postmasters. There was general correspondence and instructions given to the post office inspectors throughout the Dominion, coming chiefly from the department—some from the Civil Service Commission, but largely from the department—and that correspondence plainly said that the last word was with the Postmaster General.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I think I can very safely assure my hon. friend that no matter what is in the return that is not correct. The Postmaster General is never consulted about these matters and should not be consulted. I am sure the Civil Service Commission will not permit that. It is a fact that the Civil Service Commission does consult the post office inspectors with respect to appointments in the different provinces. The Civil Service Commission must obtain knowledge from some source or other because it is quite obvious that they could not make appointments to rural post offices without some information gathered from somewhere. Accordingly they are driven to what seems the soundest course, namely, getting the advice and assistance of the post office inspector. I know that advice is frequently given by the inspector of the province from which my hon. friend comes, because the matter has on several occasions been brought to my attention by reason of individual cases having been mentioned in the House. Otherwise I would have no knowledge of it. I have always failed to appreciate the soundness of the objection which the leader of the Opposition makes to the commission availing itself of expert assistance when positions relate to some complicated duties. For instance, it has happened that legal men have had to be appointed to the Civil Service. In such cases, when the appointment relates to the

[Mr. J. H. Sinclair.]

service in Ottawa, a member of the Exchequer Court, a member of the county court and some practising barrister are usually called in. That would seem to be a sound and businesslike procedure. I do not understand how it can be questioned. The Civil Service Commission are not bound to accept the opinion which is expressed by this board, because it must, of course, in the end accept the responsibility for the appointment. All it does is to ask that the applicants, or a certain number of them who seem to be better qualified than the others, should present themselves to this board for a test. When that is completed the Board simply advises the Commission as to which of the applicants in its judgment is the best qualified for the position. I do not think there can possibly be any objection to that course of procedure. I think it would be unfair to prevent the Civil Service Commission from doing this. The services are always rendered gratuitously to the Commission. Nobody has been paid for services of this kind. The leader of the Opposition refers to a case which was discussed at the last session of Parliament involving the question of the employment of a publicity agent. He was not required for an advertising position, which is altogether different from publicity work. Advertising is a business by itself. Persons spending a great deal of money in advertising secure the services of experts because they have found that if they allowed everybody to write their advertisements they would be wasting money.

Mr. GAUVREAU: I have at the present time a case in point in my own riding and I think I can commend the action of the Civil Service Commission. There is a postmaster to be appointed in my riding. There are many applicants. I am told that the post office inspector at Quebec will go down there and see those who are making application for the position. The best man will be chosen. I think that is a proper way to do it and I can only say that it should be recommended for the future.

Mr. PEDLOW: I would ask the minister to correct me if I have not understood his position correctly. I understood him to state that it is the duty of the Civil Service Commission to establish the schedules of pay. I think he is not quite correct in that. That has been their duty heretofore but my understanding of their duties in the future is that they will have more to do with applying the schedules already provided by the classification experts after these schedules have been endorsed by the