

Mr. MACDONALD: Why put the vote in if you are not going to expend it?

Mr. CROTHERS: We may want it.

Mr. TURRIFF: The minister has explained that in his judgment the position of assistant deputy minister in the Labour Department is not necessary. Therefore it seems to me reasonable to say that the work that the assistant deputy minister is accomplishing could have been done in the department without having an assistant deputy.

Mr. CROTHERS: I do not think that follows at all.

Mr. TURRIFF: Now my hon. friend dismisses the assistant deputy and says that the position does not need to be filled and is abolished, that it is not necessary or advisable; and he proposes to put somebody in the assistant deputy minister's place, perhaps not under the same title but under another title. I suppose the assistant deputy minister was not appointed as assistant deputy, at least his name does not appear under that title, but simply as a clerk in the First Division.

Mr. CROTHERS: He was appointed as assistant deputy.

Mr. TURRIFF: Therefore my hon. friend intends to replace Mr. Brown, though not calling the new official by the same name. He dismisses Mr. Brown, he abolishes the office; then, as he says, he proposes to appoint somebody else to the position.

Mr. CROTHERS: I did not say that.

Mr. TURRIFF: My hon. friend says practically that.

Mr. CROTHERS: I said I might.

Mr. TURRIFF: We know what that means under this Government, which is not noted for its economy. We know that when my hon. friend gets that vote through and says he may appoint some one to take that position, there will be enough hangers-on looking for jobs, and especially jobs at that salary, to make it certain that before very long my hon. friend will fill that position. Is it his intention to give Mr. Brown employment in any other capacity?

Mr. CROTHERS: It is not my intention at present.

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend has criticised the late Government for the appointment of Mr. Brown under section 21 of the Civil Service Act.

9 p.m. It would take all night to discuss appointments under section 21 in the

last three or four years. If he appoints another gentleman to do Mr. Brown's work, will it be under section 21 or through the Civil Service Commission direct by examination?

Mr. CROTHERS: I am not able to tell my hon. friend that. When the time comes and it is thought necessary to put an additional man in the office, I will consider all these questions. We are not in a position now to say what we will do.

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend admits that he will do just what he criticises the other Government for doing, and he will not commit himself to doing anything else.

Mr. CROTHERS: My hon. friend did not catch the point of my criticism. My point was that a certificate was given to the effect that the duties of this office required professional and technical knowledge. It is perfectly right, if you want a skilled engineer, to appoint him under section 21 as a technical officer, without examination.

Mr. GRAHAM: They never would allow me to do it in the Railway Department.

Mr. CROTHERS: But why it should be said that the duties of this particular office require qualifications of a professional or technical character is beyond my comprehension.

Mr. GRAHAM: Then we may take it for granted that the minister's conclusion is that he would not appoint a new man under section 21, because, according to his interpretation of the Act, the qualifications for this office, as outlined by him, are not such as would make the person to be appointed eligible under section 21. Then it will be under the ordinary Civil Service system. I might say to the minister that he is wrong about engineers. Under the former Administration, when the Railway Department wanted an engineer I was not allowed to select a man, no matter what his technical knowledge was. We had to accept the man given to us by the Civil Service Commission after passing his examination, and the commission gave us good men; I am not objecting at all to the appointments. But the minister is wrong in thinking that the other departments by which he is surrounded—unless the Civil Service Commission has changed—are allowed to take even these technical men, unless under some very exceptional circumstances, without the ordinary Civil Service examination.

Mr. CROTHERS: My hon. friend is not familiar with section 21.