

Q. But there are a lot in the public works and around the building?—A. Certainly. We have nothing to do with machinists, for instance, or certain tradesmen, painters and the like.

By Mr. Spencer:

Q. Men working under the prevailing rate of wages as mechanics do not come under you at all?—A. No.

By Mr. Glen:

Q. Your evidence amounts to this, to sum it up, that you are satisfied that any position which involves dealing with the revenue of the country, and that would include post offices, should be under the Civil Service Commission?—A. I think so.

Q. No matter what the amount, \$400 or even \$3,000—all of them?—A. Yes.

Q. All of them, that is your opinion?—A. Yes.

By Mr. MacNeil:

Q. In connection with a constituency such as I represent, it is easily possible to avoid the blame that is alleged to attach to members by careful co-operation with the commission in the methods taken to secure a proper competitive examination?—A further point is that it is practically impossible in constituencies, such as I represent, for the member to accept responsibility for an appointment at distant points reached only by boat. You recognize that difficulty?—A. I do, absolutely.

Q. Another point I wish to put to you, Mr. Stitt, is this: The only authority which ensures to ex-service men their preference with regard to appointments exempt from the Civil Service Act exists in certain orders-in-council; am I not correct?—A. Yes, I believe that is true.

Q. Is it not true that when such appointments are made by patronage methods the positions are not usually advertised and that what you speak of as the area of competition is necessarily limited?—A. I do not quite understand your question.

Q. If a position is vacant which is to be filled by patronage, it is not always made known to all those who otherwise might have the right to compete?—A. Oh, no. If I had a patronage appointment to make, I made it so quickly and I did not tell anybody about it after I got a little experience. At first I wanted to exercise my power.

Mr. SPENCE: You slipped it through in a hurry.

By Mr. MacNeil:

Q. Is it not true that the preference benefit does not always extend to all the ex-service men who should perhaps have the opportunity of applying for that position by reason of the fact that the position is not advertised openly?—A. Oh, yes, I think that is true. I do not think the preference can be safeguarded to the same extent under patronage as I do under an appointed commission, because we are answerable for everything we do.

By Mr. Tomlinson:

Q. Is not a member answerable?

Mr. O'NEILL: Ask him on the floor of the House anything you like and he has got to answer it.

By Mr. Tomlinson:

Q. Say yes or no.—A. A member on the floor of the House is not going to be cross-examined and asked questions ad infinitum.

[Mr. J. H. Stitt.]