

applications go to the Civil Service Commission and the engineer in charge of the work is asked by the commission to make a recommendation in connection with the matter. Upon getting the applications, coupled with such information or recommendation as the local engineer in charge may submit, the Civil Service Commission makes the appointment.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I must say that I never saw one of those advertisements. I would be glad indeed to know where they could be found. It looks to me as if the so-called patronage has been handed over to some one in the country other than the member for the county. I am not opposed to the Civil Service Commission in any way, but I certainly do not believe that it is good policy to hand over to some one else in the county the matter of these appointments.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Does the minister say that appointments made to positions in the Department of Railways and Canals are under the control of the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. J. D. REID: All appointments to positions in the Railway Department, not including, of course, the Canadian National Railways, are made by the Civil Service Commission. If we want a common labourer or lock-master or a man to fill any position of that kind on one of the canals, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Railways writes to the secretary of the commission and tells him that he wants such a man. What procedure the Civil Service Commission adopts in filling those positions I do not know, but I do know that from the minister down, not one employee of the Railway Department has anything further to do with the matter or knows who the appointee will be until the commission advises that such and such a man is to fill the position.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I am not familiar with the matter of the canals, but I understood that appointments to positions on the Government railways were made by the Minister of Railways—

Mr. J. D. REID: Oh, no.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough):—or one of his officers; that such appointments were made by the Civil Service Commission. Never am I mistaken about that?

Mr. ROWELL: It has always been made clear that the Canadian National railways did not come under the Civil Service Com-

mission. All appointments in that connection are made by the Board of Management.

Mr. J. D. REID: My hon. friend (Mr. J. H. Sinclair) has said, as I understood him, that all appointments on the Government railways were made by the minister. I can hardly understand the hon. member making such a statement, because he knows that the Canadian National railways are operated by a board appointed—

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I did not mean to say that the minister was undertaking the work of the board.

Mr. J. D. REID: Appointments to positions on the Canadian National railways are made by the Board of Management. The department has not interfered with such appointments; they do not feel that they have any power to interfere.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I am not suggesting that anybody is interfering at all; that is not what I am speaking of. Let me make the matter clear: I am pointing out that men employed on the Government railways are not appointed by the Civil Service Commission. I think that is well known to everybody. Now I am informed that another class of men employed are not under the Civil Service Commission,—and I would like to get the information from the minister—that is, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment.

Mr. ROWELL: My hon. friend is correct in that. By the Act of last session and on the report of the committee which considered the question of civil re-establishment, it was provided that the department might make appointments direct, subject to submitting to the commission a report of the appointments. That was done for the fairly obvious reason, I should think, that the administration of that department would be somewhat akin to that of the Department of Militia. There was the matter of hospitals and the care of the men being treated. There were the schools for vocational training and the other branches of service included in the work of this department. Immediate action was necessary to care for the men upon demobilization. The appointments were not of a permanent character, the department being a temporary one, and accordingly the House by express enactment made provision for the department making the necessary appointments and reporting these appointments to the commission.