

as a possibility is just exactly what is indicated in this amendment. It will be for the commission, in consultation with the Governor in Council, to work out a proper scheme. If the commission are able to do it for third-class clerks and for the writer class—

Mr. FISHER. They have a clear cut way of doing that by competitive examination.

Mr. FOSTER. But it is infinitely more difficult for the commissioners to prepare the right kind of examination, to make it practical and effective and to keep it from being academic for the other grades of clerks than it is to prepare forms of examination for a messenger, packer or sorter. This is of the most elementary description. What Great Britain and the United States have carried out without the least trouble my hon. friend could work out through the commission here. The difficulty with the minister is that he does not want to give up the patronage.

Mr. FISHER. No, it is not.

Mr. FOSTER. And he is putting a blot upon his whole Civil Service Act when he takes hundreds of public positions on one hand and says to the people: You shall not have your entrance into this part of the public service without a competitive examination, and then says: We shall keep the nomination and patronage in respect to another large branch of the public service in our own hands. Why not cut it off when the minister is at the process and has his knife already into the evil which he has so strongly denounced? Why not go to the whole length especially as it is the easiest portion of the length to go? The minister says that there is no time to consider it now. No, because legislation is chucked into the House in the seventh month of the session, we have not time to do anything. We are worn out any way. However, I will move the amendment.

Mr. BERGERON. I would like to ask my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) if the nomination of a page would have to be made by the Governor in Council?

Mr. FOSTER. If the proposed resolution is adopted the House shall exercise just the same authority it now exercises in connection with its officers. There will be no change at all.

Mr. BERGERON. I understand that it says that the nomination of an officer of the House of Commons shall be through the clerk, or the deputy head or the Speaker, and that it will have to be done by the Governor in Council. Where is the difference?

Mr. FISHER. We are coming to a clause which I am proposing to insert in the Act to define that everything that is done under this Act where it relates to the House of

Commons shall be done by the House. In a department the Governor in Council can make appointments, but it is provided that appointments to the staff of the House of Commons or the Senate shall be outside of the Governor in Council.

Mr. BERGERON. Then there will be no change?

Mr. FISHER. No. With regard to what my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) says about my desire to retain the patronage, I think that is an entirely unfair statement. I do not wish to accept this amendment because I do not think it is feasible to carry out such a competitive examination as applies to the rest of the service. Where it is cut and dried work it can be carried out with definite results, but in such a case as this it would necessarily be very loose and I do not consider that it would work. Therefore, I am not prepared to accept the amendment. The statement of the hon. gentleman that my reason for not accepting it is that I want to keep the patronage, is not correct.

Amendment (Mr. Foster) negatived.

On section 21—professional and specially qualified officers.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It seems to me that the word 'competitive' should be placed before the word 'examination' in the 30th line. You have 'without examination' in one place and 'with or without' in the other.

Mr. FISHER. I will accept that amendment.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is evidently the intention.

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 22—messengers, packers, &c.

Mr. FISHER. I would also suggest in section 22 that we make the same change as was made in section 21 as to the way in which the certificate of the commission should be given. In lines 41 and 42, I would move that the words 'given upon evidence satisfactory to it' be stricken out and that the words 'to be given with or without examination as is determined by the regulations of the commission' be substituted.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 23—temporary clerks.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, may I suggest to my hon. friend that he also carry that out in section 23?

Mr. FISHER. Yes. I propose that in subsection 2 of section 23 we shall also strike out the words 'given upon evidence satisfactory to it' and substitute the words 'to be given with or without examination as