

DRAKE DEFENDS AUDITOR
AGAINST POCOCK ATTACK

Mayor Also Takes Up Cudgel—States "All Brains Not On the Public Utilities Commission"—"Pocock Sore," Suggests Ward Three Alderman.

EXPECT NO LARGE DEFICIT ON L. AND P. S.

"I want to tell Mr. Pocock that we have a good auditor in the person of Henry B. Ashplant as he or any other citizen of London can produce. Nothing will escape his notice and he'll not overlook future London and Port Stanley reports, you can be assured."

So declares Ald. Gordon Drake today, thoroughly aroused by statements credited yesterday to Philip Pocock, member of the public utilities commission and ex-member of the L. and P. S. committee.

"I can't understand Mr. Pocock's criticism of the city hall activities," continued Ald. Drake. "It may be, of course, that he is puffed because he was not reappointed to the Port Stanley commission."

"He has no legitimate excuse for criticizing the council of 1922 for the appointment of Ald. Ashplant to the position of city auditor. It was certainly in the best interests of the city, and one of the best moves that has been made in its history."

"During the brief period Mr. Ashplant has held office he has conducted a rigid investigation into the condition of several departments and information that has been available has indeed been valuable to us."

Nothing Will Escape. "Nothing will escape his notice, and the members of the Port Stanley commission, past or present, can rest assured that the affairs of that corporation will receive the same careful scrutiny. I realize quite well, of course, that there are certain officials and others who resent his appointment. They do not relish what they calculate to be interference on his part."

"Mr. Ashplant is a 1 as an auditor, and the people and officials of London will realize that full well by the time the year is over. One thing, during my several years on the council, he has been the first auditor who has ever come to the council and explained anything."

"All the brains are not confined to the public utilities commission," asserted Mayor Winkler, also taking up the cudgel in defense of the council, as against the criticism of Commissioner Philip Pocock.

"The commissioner is talking more or less at random, to my mind," commented his worship. "He talks about a high tax rate, and he is blaming the city council for it. I dispute his claim that the tax rate was struck this time last year. That was not the case. The rate was not fixed until March 29, and it will be struck here within a few days. That will be much earlier than last year."

Sadly in Error. "He talks further about the increased expenses in the operation of the assessment department. Once again he is sadly in error. He is seemingly not conversant with all facts of the case. I dispute his claim that the tax rate was struck this time last year. That was not the case. The rate was not fixed until March 29, and it will be struck here within a few days. That will be much earlier than last year."

"It is my contention that the retirement of certain employees will mean another actual saving. The junior members of the staff have been unable to surmount the obstacles that barred their way toward economy and greater efficiency."

FIND WOMAN FAMISHED
BESIDE FROZEN SISTER

Coroner Believes Victim Had Been Dead Over a Week.

Associated Press Despatch. Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Neighbors on entering a cottage at Dayton, Ky., last night found Mrs. Maria L. Mansfield, 47, half famished and helpless lying in bed beside the frozen body of her dead sister, Mrs. Margaret Latham, 26. Both women were fully clothed and had no heat, no food, and no water in the house.

Coroner W. H. Hughes said he believed Mrs. Latham had been dead for perhaps a week, and that death was due to pneumonia, brought on by starvation and cold. Her sister, daily growing weaker from lack of food, had lain beside the dead for several days, not knowing she had perished. She thought her sister was only sleeping. Mrs. Mansfield said last night during lucid moments.

MAY PASS RESOLUTION
TO CHECK FEDERATIONS

F. B. Edmunds Declares Inefficient Teacher Gets Same Salary as Best Instructor.

Canadian Press Despatch. Brookville, Feb. 23.—Characterization of teachers' federations in Toronto as "a tremendous union, which has the effect of demanding the same salary for an inefficient teacher as for the best instructor" was made last night by F. B. Edmunds, chairman of the Toronto Board of Education, speaking to the local board, in his capacity as vice-president of the Urban School Trustees' Association.

He intimated that at the annual meeting of the association, to be held in Brantford next week, a resolution would be introduced aimed at checking the power of the federations. Mr. Edmunds also stated that the Toronto board intended to extend its physical examination of teachers to those whose habits might be in question or who might seek to return to duty before their full recovery from illness.

MINING INDUSTRY
IS NOT BATTLING
PAPER INDUSTRY

Porcupine Residents Would Correct Erroneous Impression on Power Situation.

IS UP TO HOLLINGER

Wants Abitibi Paper Company To Open Dams on Sunday.

Special to The Advertiser.

Cobalt, Ont., Feb. 23.—The government's statement in the legislature in regard to the Porcupine power situation is well understood in the north as being a fair summary of the case. Hon. Benoit Bowman, minister of lands and forests, said that conditions, which Hollinger said that the government was quite sure that the fact that Hollinger would accept conditions essential to the general welfare of the north.

The next move would appear to be up to Hollinger.

What the northerners are afraid of is that the rest of Ontario will get the idea that the mining industry is prepared to jeopardize the paper-making industry, which, of course, is not mining industry's idea at all. The Abitibi Paper Company employs as many men as the Porcupine camp, and the business it brings the country is much appreciated.

It is said that on Sunday the Abitibi Paper Company lets only enough water through on an average to give the Hollinger proposed powerhouse 2,000 horsepower. This would be fatal to the mine, which plans to use 15,000 horsepower every day, Sundays included. Hollinger wants the paper company to open its dams on Sunday. The paper company has closed Sunday's water round, is plain evidence that to open them for Hollinger would be fatal to one-sixth of their employment.

The dispute is reminiscent of the fight that used to take place in old days on Southern Ontario rivers among grist mill owners. Only in this case the latter are as strong as the former, as the Abitibi Paper Company has more power than all the mines of Cobalt, Kirkland and Porcupine combined.

How the differing interests are going to be reconciled is not clear, but perhaps if Hollinger were to choose another site, further down the river or elsewhere, where the flow would be fairly constant, all the difficulties might be overcome. Everybody is anxious to see Hollinger get all the power he needs, but northerners deplore the fact that the impression should go abroad that the mining industry is fighting the paper industry, when, as a matter of fact, they have always worked together in the most amicable fashion.

ALD. DRAKE IN FAVOR
OF MOTOR BUS VOTE

Says Fleet of Buses Would Be Fine Weapon Against Street Railway.

"Ald. Judd isn't the whole council," declares Ald. Drake who is more confident than ever that the people will be asked this year to vote upon the proposed purchase of five or six motor buses.

"We have got to do something and do it quick," he warned, "if we are to have a 'show-down' with the London Street Railway Company. We'll have to stop monkeying around and get busy. I think we have six aldermen who will favor the project."

"We must make the street railway come to time, and we can't do a thing, as we are at present. We must have some weapon, and five or six modern motor buses will do the trick. As soon as practicable we'll have for this, and they will hear from this in respect when the council considers the entire transportation situation within a few days."

Ald. Drake submits that the cost of a special election would not be too excessive. He believes that the board of education would grant free use of certain schools for polling purposes, and the only expense would be printing of ballots and the employment of poll clerks. It would not be necessary to use all the schools, he says.

C. N. R. CLERKS GET NOTICE
TO MOVE TO MONTREAL

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, N. B., Feb. 23.—Notice was posted in the audit office department of the Canadian National Railway yesterday advising clerks that the staff would be moved to Montreal as soon as practicable after May 1. This means that one hundred and eighty employees will leave Moncton for Montreal. One hundred and ten of them are married and have families.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

RUSTO MEGINIS, AM GOTT A FIND A NEW DOCTOR. DO YOU KNOW A GOOD ONE?

SURE! WHO'S SICK BELLA DONNA?

MAH BROTHER!

IS IT SERIOUS?

WELL—MORE EIGHT DOCTORS HAVE GIVEN HIM UP!

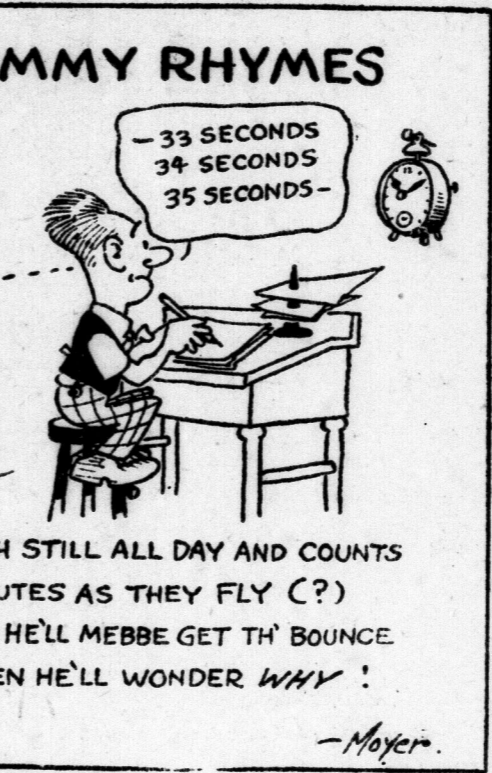
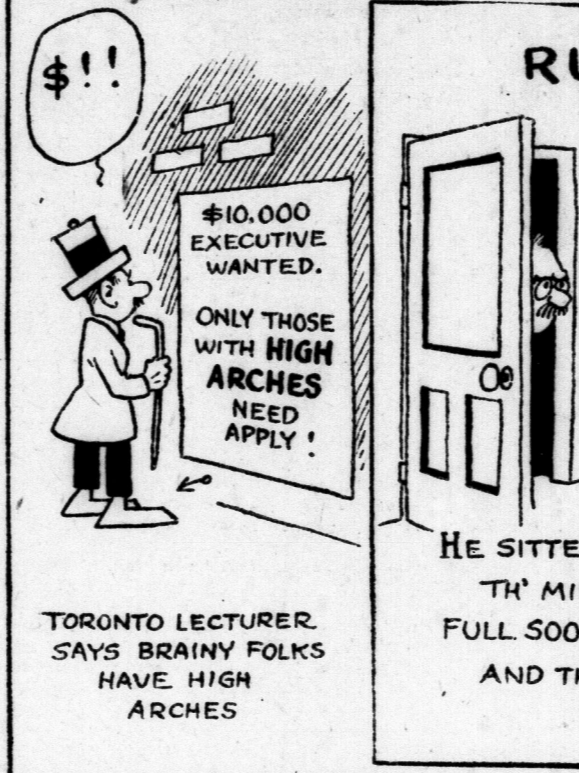
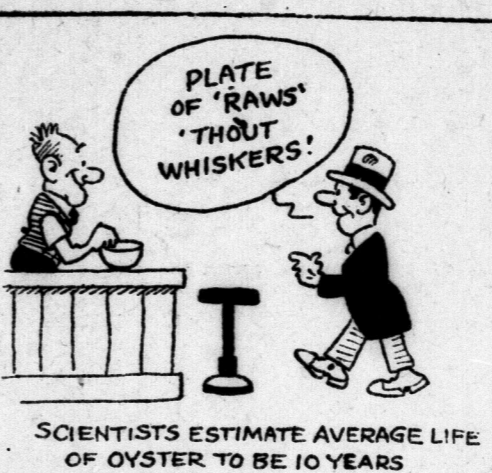
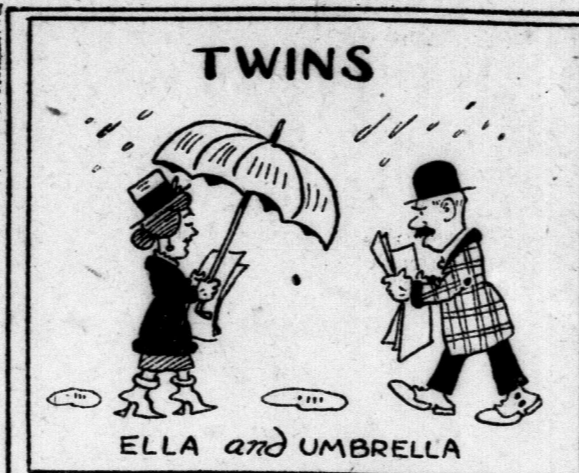
EIGHT EH? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?

WHY HE JES WOULDN'T PAY NONE OF THEIR BILLS!!!

OK!

DIBS AND DABS

—BY HARRY MOYER

ONE GOOD SNOWSTORM
WILL PUT YEAR AHEAD

Total Fall This Winter Already Less Than Four Inches Behind 1918.

On the home stretch, and the race is close! The track is dry. Can 1923 win? No! It isn't Joe Ray breaking his own record on one of the fastest indoor tracks of the continent, nor is it Charles Jewtraw racing against time on the frozen waters of Lily Lake, St. John, N. B. It is the Forest City, better known as London, attempting to beat the January-February snowfall record, made in 1918.

While the average citizen is exclaiming what a cold winter it is, and "I never saw so much snow since 1909," as is blissfully unaware that a close and very uncertain contest is in progress—1918 against 1923: 1923 is the dark horse, and the winner will not be known until February 23, when the last stroke of midnight tolls over a quiet city.

Local weather records show that in 1918, 46 inches of snow fell during the first month of the year, and in February the amount dropped to 16 1/2 inches. But the grand total for the two months was 62 inches, which is considered very creditable, when the popular opinion is that the Canadian winter is becoming less severe year by year.

During January of this year 40 1/2 inches of snow fell, and in February to date, the records show the amount to be 18 1/2 inches. The total for two months is 59 1/2 inches.

There are but five days to go and during that time, to equal the record of 1918, 3 1/2 inches of snow must fall. In the past two days the fall has been almost continuous, and it keeps up with an occasional flurry.

Down in the remaining period there is every likelihood that 1923 will knock the 1918 record for a row of pyramids.

WINNIPEG RAILWAY SHOWS
INCREASE IN NET EARNINGS

Canadian Press Despatch. Winnipeg, Feb. 23.—Net earnings of the Winnipeg Electric Railway Company for 1922 show an increase of \$17,575 over the previous year. The net earnings for last year totaled \$1,528,834, as compared with \$1,511,259 in 1921.

The net income for 1922 is shown as \$1,650,688, as against \$1,677,666 in 1921. The company's total interest charges are given as \$642,023. The surplus earnings of the company since January, 1916, including maintenance and depreciation, amounted to \$7,204,892.

CLAIMS DIVINE INSPIRATION
FOR BOOK ON BIRTH CONTROL

Mrs. Stopes Refuses to Read Her Much Criticized Publication Before London Court—Distinguished Surgeon Testifies in Favor of Plaintiff.

By HENRY SOMERVILLE. Special Cable to The Advertiser. Copyright.

London, Feb. 23.—In the course of yesterday's hearing of the libel action brought by Marie Stopes, apostle of birth control, against Dr. Halliday Sutherland, in an endeavor to prove that the books written by the plaintiff were not fit for indiscriminate sale, asked her if she would read certain passages in court.

Mrs. Stopes refused to read her book aloud. She said the book was meant to be read as a whole in solitude and with a thoughtful mind. It would be an outrage to read it in court, because of the spirit in which it would be received there.

Mrs. Stopes was severely cross-examined as to her claim to be an inspired prophet with a divine mission to the bishops of the Lambeth conference. In one of her books she wrote: "I spent the afternoon alone in the cool shades of the old yew woods on the hills behind my home. While penetrated by that calm beauty there came suddenly and quite explicitly instructions. In the words which follow I was told: 'Say to my bishops what is found in these pages.'"

At the conclusion of the message I arose and went home instantly, sent for my secretary, and there and then, without going into the house, dictated to him what had been dictated to me in the presence of the Almighty."

She said her books had circulated all over the world. One of her books was suppressed in America, where an unauthorized publisher had interpolated words of his own.

Sir William Arbuthnot Lane, consulting surgeon at Guy's Hospital, London, testified that he had met Mrs. Stopes, he had come across a really intelligent philanthropist at last. He thought the reading of such a book would do young women a lot of good.

WEARING DOWN TACTICS
ADOPTED IN THE RUHR

Neither French or Germans Are Conducting Offensive in Occupied Area.

Associated Press Despatch. London, Feb. 23.—The Cologne correspondent of the Times describes the coal war in the occupied area as degenerating into trench warfare, in which neither side can be properly said to be conducting the offensive. He said it is a question for both of wearing-down tactics and that if the initiative seems to lie with the French the Germans realize the danger of stagnation and lose no opportunity of devising counter measures. It put new heart into their resistance, it must not be assumed, he adds, because they are weaponless and the French are supplied with strong armaments, that the Germans are aiming simply at a deadlock; the economic offensive is attempted, when possible, as much from the German as from the French side.

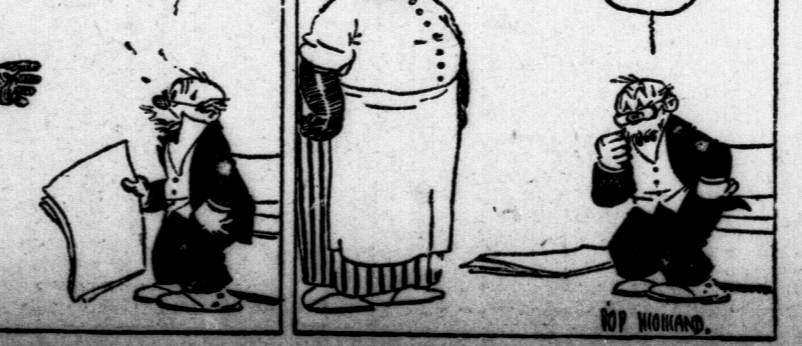
There, however, is no likelihood of Germany changing her economic into armed warfare, in the opinion of the correspondent, because, obviously, such transformation would only weaken the German position, while putting fresh weapons into the hands of the French.

George Lane Declares the High
Freight Rates and Labor
Real Trouble.

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, Feb. 23.—The Westerners' Club of Montreal has received a communication from George Lane, of Calgary, Alta., one of the largest ranchers in the west, in which he speaks of the grievances of the three western provinces, "which it seems to me have been brought about by financial difficulties, high freight rates, both by rail and by water, high-priced labor and also unskilled."

"This terrible tariff which has been placed against Canada by the United States has made a tremendous loss for the ranchers and mixed farmers, too. As you are aware the farmers have control of the Manitoba government and also of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and they are clamoring for cheaper money and cheaper transportation by rail and water."

By POP MOMAND

INVESTIGATE OPERATIONS
CIVIL SERVICE MEASURE

House Decides in Favor of Probe After an All-Day Debate Before Crowded Galleries—Liberals Vote Solidly For Probe of Act.

MEIGHEN AND KING TILT LIVELY SWORDS

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—Following another long day of debate, the house last night decided in favor of a special committee to investigate the operation of the civil service act. The decision came late and on the following vote:

For 103
Against 66

Majority for 37
Liberals voted solidly in the committee; Conservatives solidly against; Progressives divided. With two Labor members voting for, and thirty-seven, including the Progressive leader, Robert Forke, voted against.

The debate arose on a motion by C. G. Power, Liberal member for Quebec South, favoring repeal of the entire civil service act and carrying with it abolition of the civil service commission. Mr. Power's motion was discussed at considerable length on Friday, and today J. J. Hughes, Liberal, King's, P. E. I., submitted an amendment to sub. For repeal civil service act, reference to a special committee of the house to investigate the operation of the act, as indicated, and, subsequently, the Progressive motion, as thereby amended was likewise adopted.

Civil servants, attracted by the topic, crowded the public gallery more than they have been crowded since the opening of the session. There were numerous lively passages. Mr. Meighen, leader of the opposition, charged that the prime minister wished to abolish the civil service commission or to make "a mere mummy of it."

Premier Defines Position.

Premier King countered that Mr. Meighen had misrepresented his position. He asserted that the government was opposed to repeal of the civil service act, was opposed to abolition of the civil service commission, but believed that the public interest that the civil service should be investigated by a special committee, Robert Forke, Progressive leader, expressing personal views, doubted whether a committee with a government majority would tend towards a return of patronage.

Debate continued for and against at the evening session. General Ross, Conservative, Kingston, thought the present was not the time to interfere with the civil service commission. Hon. Charles Maclellan, Liberal, Bonaventure, supported the commission, but felt that the house should be given further light on the question.

Mr. Martel asked A. L. Lewis, Progressive, Swift Current, if he would appointing judges by the civil service commission; would he give the civil service commission the right to appoint men to the highest positions in the Dominion?

"I think the commission would be as capable in that as the present administration," responded Mr. Lewis. "Judges in the judicial capacity should not be appointed by any government, he maintained. In many instances they had been chosen for their political abilities, and perhaps because they were defeated candidates in a previous election."

Favors Committee. Both H. A. Fortier, Liberal, Labadie, and D. W. Warner, Progressive, Strathcona, supported the commission of the civil service commission, but favored an investigating committee.

Hon. George P. Graham, minister of defence, urged the necessity of an investigation, observed that over a thousand employees had been retired from his department in the last fourteen months—not because they were inefficient, but because of reorganizing work. He said that departments were advertising for clerks. New applicants had come in from various parts of the country and were appointed, while a thousand experienced and efficient clerks were walking the streets of Ottawa.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, opposition leader, admitted the genuineness of Mr. Graham's argument. But the reason given by Mr. Graham, that he could not read at all into the speech made in the subject by the prime minister.

Mr. Meighen then took up the premier's speech of Friday last, and declared that Mr. King had vacated that a minister should possess the power to make appointments.

"In certain cases, I said," asserted the premier. "The premier did not say anything about certain cases," maintained Mr. Meighen. "If the government wanted the right to appoint clerks, and pursue, 'what power did they propose to leave the commission?'"

"Why did the leader of the opposition not put the income tax department under the civil service commission when he was in power?" asked Mr. King.

"Because they were intended to be temporary at the time," answered Mr. Meighen.

"Does the prime minister want to put all officials in the same class as the income tax department?" "No," said the premier.

"Then," asked Mr. Meighen, "why did he mention the income tax department?"

Mr. Meighen next quoted a statement from Mr. King that it was not in the interests of the public service that the civil service commission should have the power to make appointments.

"What about the \$10,000 position removed from the control of the civil service commission at their own suggestion?" interposed the premier.

"Does the prime minister want to extend that to include all the civil service?" came back the opposition leader.

"Not at all," replied the premier. "He says that he is opposed to the principle," pressed Mr. Meighen. "I said that there were a few cases," insisted Premier King. "I see," continued Mr. Meighen, "that he is opposed to the practice and I thought he was to the principle."

Meighen Presses Point.

"If the English language could state antagonism to the civil service commission more strongly than Mr. King had stated it," declared Mr.

Was Mandate of People.

The civil service act, added Mr. Shaw, was passed in 1918 as the result of a definite mandate from the people, and there had been no mandate from the people since then asking for the return of the patronage system. The only result of the discussion in the house would be to undermine the confidence of the public in the civil service commission.

Referring to the statements credited to Principal Grant and Dr. Roche of the civil service commission, Mr. Shaw believed that both of these gentlemen had a grievance against newspapers. The premier, however, was not on solid ground in his attack. Bonaventure, the civil service reform league was a commendable ideal. Such a league had done great work in the United States.

The advantages of the civil service commission to the total staff in government departments, Mr. Shaw pointed out, in Canada, was more than in any country in the world. Quoted from the report of the commission for the year ending March 31, 1922, he said the commission had made a saving of \$20,000 per year in permanent employees, and \$18,000 in temporary employees in one year.

After survey of the commission's offices the staff there had been reduced by 25 persons. Great things also had been accomplished in the printing bureau.

Mr. Shaw did not suggest that there might not be some minor reforms. He believed that both of these gentlemen had a grievance against the whole work of the commission. Among the benefits from the commission's operations, he said, were: Guarantees that character, physical and mental fitness would secure employment, without regard to political opinions; the possibilities of employment on the merit basis, and the standardization of work and salaries; the promotion of greater efficiency.

Favors Return of Law.

J. M. Archambault cited the appointment of an officer to signal the transatlantic liners in the St. Lawrence. Mr. Archambault had recalled a man who had assisted the previous holder of the position, but the chief Conservative organizer for that town, who was a Liberal, had been appointed.

"I would have as much chance of re-election in that town," commented Mr. Archambault, "as a snowball in the place where Mr. Hocken, of Toronto (Mr. Hocken) would like to see the Knights of Columbus" (laughter).

Mr. Hocken: "Where my honorable friend would like to see the member for West Toronto?"

Mr. Archambault: "No! No! It is a matter of fact that Mr. Archambault, to see Conservatives raise their hands in holy horror over patronage, when after 1911 everyone who was a Liberal was removed from office. On Chalmers Canal there was one position that carried a house with it. The occupant of the office at the time was still, but he was dismissed, and had to be carried out of the house on a stretcher."

Mr. Archambault favored a return to the law of 1905, on account of economy. Under the old system in 1908 the civil service commission had nine employees, and had cost \$12,351, while in 1922 it had 255 employees, and cost \$297,990.

J. J. Hughes, Liberal, Kings, P. E. I., moved to amend the Power resolution by striking out the word "repeal" and making it read: "To appoint a special committee for the purpose of inquiring into the operation of the civil service act."

Dr. R. K. Anderson, Conservative, Halton, said that the civil service act and the amendments introduced as implementing the pledge of the Union government. He would not like to see those amendments changed.

King Favors Act.

The government would find, Dr. Anderson went on, that interfering with the civil service commission would be regarded by the public as exceedingly reactionary.

Remarks of the prime minister when addressed the house on Feb. 16, Dr. Anderson said, it was apparent that the prime minister favored going back to the act of 1908.

The prime minister denied this. He explained that it was entirely correct that the act of 1918 had been introduced as implementing the pledge of the Union government. He would not like to see those amendments changed.