

it brought about. But I find myself turned definitely to anger when I contemplate its effect on the whole body politic. I have no personal ill-will against this young man. I understand that he has done good work in other directions. I have no personal ill-will against anybody, or, if I have, I try earnestly, with the intenseness of my nature, to avoid it. But that young man will have enough to do to contest his nomination for election in face of the two opposing Liberal candidates whom he will meet. His patronage activities, however, I want to declare in this house, are absolutely contemptible. I have profound personal respect for the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and I have wholeheartedly extended my respect to his ministers. I confess to a sense of joyous relief that the Bren gun probe so recently held left the character of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie) unquestioned. But I do know that official letters leave Ottawa enjoining government officials on the Pacific coast to have their submissions for new service in my constituency referred to this back-door member of the riding. I do know that last session, when this young back-door member was in Ottawa, I was called into the private room of a minister of this government—of course, when the minister was absent—to be warned by that young man that I would be a fool if I ran against him for reelection, because he was nursing the constituency for himself and wanted the seat, while I would do nothing more than ruin his chances and fail to seize my own.

Even these things were as "water on a duck's back"; but when I have information that my efforts as member for the constituency have been cancelled or delayed until it suited this man to act, I feel that the country should know; for if these things are being done in the green tree, in heaven's name what will be done in the dry? The latest stupidity, to use a mild expression is this: Early last year, 1938, I conveyed to the former Postmaster General (Mr. Elliott) the desire of the citizens of Duncan for two street pillar-boxes to facilitate mail posting. Approved departmentally early in May, 1938, this simple business facility was deliberately hung up by this back-door member until this month, January, 1939, eight months afterwards. The local paper, the *Cowichan Leader*, Duncan, B.C., under date of Thursday, January 19, 1939, writes as follows:

Two Mail Boxes to be Placed on Hospital Hill and Townsite.

Residents of Duncan's Hospital Hill and Townsite will no longer have to go to the post office to mail letters. Duncan junior chamber of commerce has won its fight to have mail

boxes placed beside the school store at the corner of Cairnsmore street and the Island highway, and beside Smith's community store at the corner of Coronation avenue and Bundock street.

With the cooperation of Mr. H. A. Collings, Duncan postmaster, Mr. Claude Green, the junior chamber's committee of one, has been trying for nearly a year to obtain official consent to the erection of the boxes.

Action finally was secured through a letter to Mr. Alan Chambers, Liberal candidate at the last dominion election. Mr. Chambers wrote this week that authority had been given.

I should like the government to look into that matter. This does not disturb me personally. It will not affect my decision to run again or not to run again. As a matter of fact, I have not yet told myself what I shall do. And I am not seeking credit for my services; they have been sought for and accepted willingly as an honourable duty. But I do earnestly warn the government that these things produce unrest and disquiet throughout the country. The country knows of them, and that disquiet is continually increasing. I declare that political knavery in the outfield is not the best way to train the cricketer to use his bat when he goes to the wicket. I hope hon. members will recognize these stupidities as some more of those things done in politics which would not be tolerated in a well conducted business. Of course it is likely that denial will follow denial. But all that I have said is absolutely true as far as my researches have been able to penetrate the zone of silence which surrounds these matters. While I have had to reflect upon the actions of an individual, I have done so quite unwillingly, my scruples overcome by the gravity of the destroying influence of political patronage in practically every aspect.

Nor unfortunately do I gain much from the contemplation of the activities of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The earnest representation given by the high-minded members of that party in this house does not remove the political trickery which too often activates the controlling members of the party throughout the dominion. Here the members of that party are still largely a protest group, and in consequence of my taunt that no constructive plan was placed before the house by them they have submitted many desired features of an entirely new economy, without, however, showing the constitutional path by which these desired features might be secured for the people. And that, I submit, is essential. In the country the provincial executives are becoming increasingly Marxian socialists with all that this implies of secret talks against the institution of monarchy, of apotheosizing