

its enforcement officials make enormous sums of money by conniving at its violations. In the beginning the league pointed out the probability of this result if the positions were exempted from the provisions of the civil service law, and has endeavored constantly to procure an amendment of the law which would classify the entire prohibition force without covering in the present members. . . . Certainly a force appointed after competitive civil service examination, and investigation of the character of the applicants by an independent body such as the Civil Service Commission, would eliminate a large proportion of such scoundrels as are now appointed on political recommendations, and would vastly improve the character of the service."

It would seem as if we might very well profit by the lesson which the United States has to offer us in this regard. They have made an attempt to do this work by the method we now propose, and to a very considerable extent they have failed. Why should we not use the Civil Service Commission in making these appointments? Is there anything peculiar about the character of the work which these men are to be asked to do?

Mr. POWER: Outside of fiction, has the hon. member ever heard of men whom we commonly call "spotters" being men of very high character?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not know that we have, and that may be the cause of their failure. But it is all the more reason why these men should be appointed—

Mr. POWER: Informers.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Informers—very well.

Mr. GRAHAM: Advertise them.

An hon. MEMBER: Put them in uniform.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is not necessary to put them in uniform. If, as is suggested, we propose to secure for this work men who are not of very high character, we are not going to get effective service. We will have a condition of affairs such as has been referred to by the article which I have just read.

Mr. CANNON: Would you have a B. A. sweep the streets if he could do anything else?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I suppose a B. A. may sweep the streets, and I hope as well as some others.

Mr. CANNON: He will do something better if he can.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: There is no particular reason why a body such as the Civil Service Commission might not be entrusted with the task of selecting these men. I think they are quite as capable of selecting them

as anyone else. The examination in this case might be of a different character from that which is conducted for other classes of civil servants, but it is absolutely ridiculous to expect to secure results if we pick up men here, there and yonder whose qualification is that they lack anything like character, and who are appointed simply as a reward for political services past or for political services they may be expected to render in the days to come.

Item agreed to.

River St. Lawrence—amount required for repairs to dredging fleet and to expedite dredging operation—revote of unexpended balance appropriated under vote No. 459 in supplementary estimates, 1924-1925, \$51,750.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How does this come in the supplementaries?

Mr. CARDIN: It is a revote of money not expended last year.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is all the more reason why it should be in the main estimates.

Mr. CARDIN: We did not know the exact figure in time.

Mr. GRAHAM: The main estimates were made up in January.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But the revotes run all through the main estimates.

Mr. GRAHAM: They did not get it expended by the end of the year.

Item agreed to.

To provide for compassionate allowance to Chas. H. Lake, father of John Lake, former employee of the Radio branch of the Department of Marine, \$1,500.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What is this for?

Mr. CARDIN: This is a compassionate allowance for the father of a boy in the Radio branch who was killed.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Was the father dependent on him?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Item agreed to.

To provide for compassionate allowance to Elzear Martineau, former boilermaker's helper at the Quebec agency of the Department of Marine, \$1,018.33.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why is the minister's compassion not as great for this man as for the other fellow?

Mr. CARDIN: This man had applied for superannuation, but his papers had been lost in the department, and we found them too late. The time within which he could be superannuated had expired.