

larger. Still, he thought the English system was better than our own.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE quite admitted that the hon. member for Kingston was an admirable preacher, and it was to be hoped that nothing would occur which would prevent him exercising his talents in that particular direction. The hon. gentleman thought that many hearts had been broken by the injustice of promoting new men over their heads. If he would take a retrospect of the last twenty years, he (Sir JOHN) would feel grieved at the suffering he had caused. The greatest trouble the present government experienced was not from the new flies, but from the old ones the hon. gentleman had left behind him.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD—You are killing them as fast as you can.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the government had been obliged to exercise a great deal of forbearance where officials had been appointed for purely political reasons without any regard to their fitness for office. He did not object to any reasonable thing that had been done for persons in a certain position, but it was hardly fair for the hon. gentleman after having so extensively done this, to come to this House and administer to the government a lecture on the proper mode of conducting the public business. The system which the hon. gentleman had laid as the proper one to follow, could not always be pursued. In some cases which had been referred to, there was no promotion simply because there was no person who ought to be promoted. He knew one port, for instance, where the leading official, under the collector, had been appointed by the hon. member for Kingston for political services rendered by a friend. A vacancy occurred which was not filled until the new Government came into power, when it was filled by the promotion of the man appointed by the hon. gentleman himself. Nothing could please him (Mr. MACKENZIE) better than to be entirely rid of the responsibility which this patronage involved; and if a plan could be devised such as that in operation in England, which could be fairly carried out, the Government would be glad to adopt it. They had endeavored to appoint no one who was not qualified for an office, and, if possible, to give promotion to those

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who were entitled to it by seniority. The system of making appointments for political reasons had been carried out to such an extent by the old Government that it was impossible to entirely avoid the system now, but he admitted it was not a correct principle.

Mr. WOOD was sorry the hon. member for Kingston did not put his principles into practice while in power. For instance, in a certain port an official who had long been working at a salary of \$500 a year, saw men appointed over his head who were less competent. The present Government, on coming into power, saw the wrong, and rectified it immediately. The man who received a salary of \$1,200 was put back to his proper position of locker, at a salary of \$800, and the other man was advanced to his position, but at a salary of only \$900 a year instead of \$1,200, to which he was entitled. He (Mr. Wood) hoped the Government would pursue the course suggested by the hon. member for Kingston, and relieve members of Parliament from exercising the influence they now possessed in the distribution of patronage.

Mr. BERTRAM called the attention of the Government to the difference between the salaries of the officer at Dunnville and the officer at Port Colborne. The former received \$1,300, the latter only \$800, though the collections were much larger at Colborne than at Dunnville.

Hon. Mr. BURPEE said this was due to the fact that the Customs officer at Port Colborne received a large salary for collecting Inland Revenue.

Mr. THOMPSON (Haldimand) thought a considerable saving might be effected by abolishing the office of collector of Welland Canal tolls at Dunnville, allowing him duties to be performed by the collector of customs at that port.

Mr. McCALLUM supported this view.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he had made a note of the suggestion which would be considered.

Mr. JONES (Leeds) complained that the officers in the small towns, who had seen considerable service, could not obtain preferment to collectorships in the large ports, even if their abilities qualified them for the position. This arose because both sides of the House declared that they could not carry out the Civil Service