

A few minutes ago my hon. friend pointed out that the board will be in a position to check up on hon. gentlemen speaking throughout the country. He said that when certain statements are made with regard to the effect of the tariff, the report of the board will be available and such report will show the actual effect of the tariff measures in question. Of course such a condition would suit my hon. friend perfectly. He would have the report of a board appointed by his own friends, a board appointed in full sympathy with this government and he could be quite sure that such reports would not be likely to support any conclusions which those from this side of the house might draw. I am not suggesting that the members of the board will be dishonest or partisan, in the party sense of the word. I do suggest however that they will be of a cast of mind which will be sympathetic with the policies of this government, and they will be people in whom this government will have confidence, people who will have the confidence of this government and people whose whole outlook in connection with the economic and tariff situations of this country will be the outlook of my hon. friends opposite.

Those men will be appointed not simply for the life of this government but for ten years. My hon. friend has given the one and only reason I have heard for the ten year appointment. He has said that it is impossible to get men of standing and quality for \$12,000 a year, in the case of the chairman, or \$10,000 a year in the case of the other commissioners, if such a term is not provided. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that that is not always the case. I do not think my right hon. friend the Prime Minister would experience any difficulty in finding gentlemen qualified to be members of the government, men who would be perfectly willing to accept positions in the cabinet without any guarantee whatever as to tenure of office. They would be perfectly willing to assume cabinet positions during the life of the government. But if to get men to take office during pleasure, as many government appointees do, he has to pay more salary, let him do so; if a shorter term requires a bigger salary to get the men he wants, let him get them. We say to him, however, that it is unreasonable to make provision for a board which can practically legislate in tariff matters in a manner favourable to the policy of the present government, and expect that board to continue in office when a change of government occurs. I would remind him that when a change occurs there is an indication that the views of the people of the country have changed, and if my hon. friend's proposal were

carried out the people would find frozen into office a board which would be making tariffs in direct contradiction to policies expressed by them at a general election. I submit that for my hon. friends to place a board of that kind in power is contrary to all the principles of responsible government. Neither the Board of Railway Commissioners, nor the judges, nor the Farm Loan Board or any of those bodies decide questions of political policy. They are appointed by statute to perform definite duties which have nothing to do with political questions. The distinction lies in the fact that the board now proposed is to advise what statutes shall be passed by the people's representatives. The proposed board will make findings and express opinions upon which will be based legislative enactments which from time to time will be passed by parliament in connection with tariff matters. So I submit the amendment which has been moved by my hon. friend from Hants-King (Mr. Ilsley), in a manner which has done credit not only to himself and his constituency and to this house but to Canadian public life, is an amendment which should receive the favourable consideration of this house, and in all seriousness I submit it should receive the favourable consideration of the government.

The bill before us has in it some peculiar provisions. My hon. friends say the proposed board is to be advisory in character. I have pointed out that it is under the direction of the minister that the board makes a report in cases vital to tariff matters which constitute the most contentious feature in our political system. But I find further that the proposed board is to be a court of record and, bless your soul, that it is to have a seal of which judicial notice must be taken. The seal with the inseparable red ribbon will no doubt when produced represent the ipse dixit and the final word with regard to tariff. I do not know why my hon. friend has suggested the seal in connection with the tariff board if it is only to be an advisory and fact finding board. However, we are going to have the solemnity of a seal of which judicial notice must be taken. I do not know how the reports will be signed—I would not suggest that they should be signed in blood but I would suggest that with all this formality there should be some special ceremonial regarding the signature. It is unfortunate that there seems to be no provision as to court costume to be worn by those distinguished gentlemen who will mount the judicial rostrum to decide these questions of tariff. All these powers and these emblems would certainly give the impression that the proposed board is to exercise definite and