

plaints about it. But that does not prove that there should not be a classification. If the classification is not right, it can be put right. That does not go to the foundation of the system at all; it is a mere detail.

Referring to the matter of expense, the hon. member pointed out that it cost \$290,000 last year to run the Civil Service Commission, and he urged that that amount was too large. Perhaps it is; if so, it may be possible to reduce it. Then he says also that the procedure is too complicated; that there are too many details to be attended to. That may be true also. I do not say that the system is perfect, but these are only details, and I submit that it is the duty of the government or of the Civil Service Commission to endeavour to simplify the procedure as much as possible.

I must congratulate the mover of this resolution upon his frankness. He does not beat about the bush; he does not say that he is not in favour of abolishing the Civil Service Commission; he comes right out in the open and says he wants to get rid of it—and when he made that statement I noticed that he received a good deal of applause from hon. gentlemen on the other side. Now, I commend him for his frankness.

Mr. POWER: The hon. gentleman will pardon me; I did not say I wanted to get rid of the commission. I do want to get rid of it, but I did not say so.

Mr. McQUARRIE: To put it in another way, my hon. friend's resolution says so. And if he did not expressly say so before, he says so now, and I again congratulate him on his frankness. In taking that stand he is only following in the footsteps of some very distinguished gentlemen on the other side of the House. I have in mind certain ministers of the Crown; because I remember very distinctly the occasion when, during last session, the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) stood up in his place and said, "For God's sake give us power if we are going to have responsibility."

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I never said that. Hansard will disclose that that is not so.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I must accept the hon. minister's statement, but I think he said something like that. He may have put it in different words, but I gathered that it was his view that if he was to assume the responsibility he should also have something to do with the appointments.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Sure.

Mr. McQUARRIE: He says "Sure." Well, I do not see that there is much difference. We have heard other statements from hon. ministers of the Crown and from many supporters of the government. The thing is obvious enough to me, in view of a circumstance which I presume will not be contradicted, namely, that there are at the present time hundreds of appointments to the Civil Service that have been held up for months awaiting the time when the government shall have control over those appointments. If I am wrong about that, I will stand corrected, but that is my information.

Mr. MARTELL: Will my hon. friend kindly inform us where he got that information?

Mr. McQUARRIE: That is the information and it is not contradicted.

Mr. MARTELL: My hon. friend is simply dealing with rumour.

Mr. McQUARRIE: It is alleged that hundreds of offices have been left vacant, many of them for months.

An hon. MEMBER: That is economy.

Mr. McQUARRIE: It is quite plain what the reason is: the government is not yet in a position to control the Civil Service Commission. I am told—I do not know whether it is correct or not—that the first thing every minister of the Crown did, one and all, after taking office, was to notify the Civil Service Commission that they were going to have control over their appointments.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my hon. friend mention the name of one minister of the Crown who made such a statement?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Hear, hear—"one and all."

Mr. McQUARRIE: I included them all. If it is not correct, of course, I am very, very sorry.

Mr. MARTELL: May I ask my hon. friend a question? He is a lawyer, and he must know that if he alleges a thing he must produce the evidence. Will he produce evidence as to one single minister in the present administration, from the Prime Minister down, who has in any way interfered with the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. McQUARRIE: No, I won't attempt to do that. I will admit freely and frankly that