

### C. S. COMMISSION.

#### *Discussion in the House of Commons.*

Civil Service Commission—salaries, \$29,025; contingencies, \$50,500.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Might I ask if appointments are made to the inside service without the authority of the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. BORDEN: So far as I am aware they are not. I could not understand how, under the law, they could be made without application to the commission.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Are promotions being made which are not authorized by the commission?

Mr. BORDEN: I am not aware that they are, and if my hon. friend will direct my attention to anything of the kind, I will make inquiry as to the matter. I do not understand how it could be done except in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: If my memory serves me right, my hon. friend obtained authority last year by statute to increase the number of the Civil Service commissioners, and, although a year has elapsed I am not aware that the number of the commissioners has been increased.

Mr. BORDEN: I had expected before this to have made considerable progress in extending the scope of the Civil Service Act. My right hon. friend will remember that I went away almost immediately after the session last year and was absent until the autumn. When the autumn arrived, we secured the services of Sir George Murray for the purpose of investigating Civil Service conditions, and he has made a report which has been laid on the table of the House. We hope to give that report consideration in connection with the extension of the Civil Service Act, and, possibly, in connection with some revision of that

Act, which is not in all respects absolutely satisfactory in its operation. In the meantime, until that extension does take place, and until the consideration of that report can be made, it is not thought necessary that a third commissioner should be appointed. The appointment will, however, eventually be made.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: My hon. friend had not thought of the report of Sir George Murray when he obtained power to increase the number of the commissioners. When my hon. friend last year introduced the Bill authorizing the Government to increase the number of the commissioners, we offered no objection. We assumed at that time that my hon. friend had made up his mind to have a third commissioner, and although the reasons given were rather meagre, we took it for granted that there were good reasons for this change. Perhaps we too readily took matters for granted, because my hon. friend has now been deliberating for a year, and I do not understand that he is even at the present time in a position to say that the third commissioner will be appointed.

Mr. BORDEN: A third commissioner will be appointed in due course, but I think it is desirable that, before doing so, the operation of the Act should be carefully reviewed and the recommendations made by Sir George Murray with regard to the working of the Act and the efficiency of the Civil Service generally should be fully considered; and also that his suggestions pointing to the possibility of greater efficiency should be considered by the House and by the Government.

Mr. GERMAN: We have a Civil Service Commission at an expense of \$44,000, and I fail to see of what benefit it is in so far as the Government of Canada is concerned. What better inside or outside service have we than before the commission was