

Government—the Prime Minister is now here—that some member of the Government should be assigned to have supervision over the Civil Service. A year or two ago a certain member of the Government discharged the duty of looking after the service, and I have no doubt he performed it very well during the short time he was attending to it. From what I can learn there is now no member of the Government whose duty it is to deal with questions that are constantly arising in the service. Hon. members who are listening to me I suppose have had the same experience that I have had: Complaints made by civil servants that they are unjustly treated. I was told a few days ago by a civil servant in whom I have the utmost confidence,—a man who is perfectly satisfied with his own position and salary—that when a case of injustice arises in regard to classification and other matters coming under the Civil Service Commission there is really no one in the Government who takes enough interest in the service to deal with it. I do not want to give the man's name, but I am afraid there is a certain amount of truth in his statement.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: He should go to the commission.

Mr. SINCLAIR: (Guysborough): Some minister should be assigned the duty of dealing with questions arising in the Civil Service, and in cases of grievance he should be the man to go to and should be responsible for their adjustment. I would like that suggestion to be seriously considered by the Government.

Mr. ROWELL: I would point out to my hon. friend that any employee of the public service who has any grievance, imaginary or real, in connection with the classification or its application has the Civil Service Commission to go to. More than that, the commission, with the approval of the Government constituted what is known as a Board of Hearing. That board consists of two representatives named by the Civil Service itself, two appointed by the deputy ministers, viz.:—the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Works and the Assistant Auditor General, and is presided over by one of the Civil Service Commissioners. Any complaints in reference to the classification are dealt with by that board. Any other complaints are dealt with by the commission. So I do not think any civil servant has any just ground to complain that there is no person to whom he can present his grievance. In addition, they

[Mr. Sinclair (Guysborough).]

all have their superior officers in each department, and in case they feel themselves unjustly dealt with they can appeal to those superior officers to have their cases investigated.

Mr. BURNHAM: Might I say that the minister's statement of the case leaves everything to be desired? Ninety-nine per cent of the employees have no more knowledge of how to go about making a complaint than they have of flying. They very properly have the idea that they should make their complaint first to their foreman, who in turn passes on the complaint to the chief engineer, but naturally the chief engineer does not want to get himself in wrong at headquarters and he passes on the complaint in a very perfunctory manner. The consequence is that as the much despised member of Parliament has no status in the matter, the employee in any particular constituency has no recourse to his friend the member. On the contrary, the employee is invited to climb to the top fifteen steps at a time, which he cannot do, and won't do, and does not understand how to do. Much as I respect the minister, I must point out another thing, that he has been able to deal with this particular thing only after being prompted by the man in front of him. I have nothing against the Civil Service Commission, I suppose they are working to the best of their ability, but this system which expects the poor humble employee along a canal or any other public work to sit down and formulate a complaint, and to know the devious ways of getting it to the various Boards of Hearing over the heads of his superiors, foremen, or superintendents or whatever they may be—this system, I say, expects too much, for that poor man never does what is expected of him, and the consequence is that until the discontent and murmuring becomes fierce there is nothing heard about it.

Mr. CHAPLIN: The minister referred a moment ago to the Welland Canal. I would like to know from him who makes these appointments of lock-keepers, and so on. Surely the Civil Service Commission cannot make these appointments; somebody other than the member of Parliament for the constituency must be responsible for them?

Mr. ROWELL: In the case of lock-keepers and men occupying positions of that kind, the procedure is to advertise locally for applications for the position. These