

bound to dispense with their services. Why make an exception of this particular service and make the employees permanent when hundreds are being turned off in other places? They should all be treated alike and be called upon to make a new application. If they pass there can be no complaint, but you are going to transfer every one in this War Purchasing Commission to a new permanent department. After you have done that, you will find in the Militia Department, say, about twenty or thirty or forty men out of employment because their work is finished. Will they be transferred to some other department without an examination? They came in without an examination and now that their work is finished they are to be turned off. If the principle that the minister is establishing here is to be applied, these men will argue that as 'permanent' places have been found in this new department for fifty or a hundred men, or whatever may be the number, it is unfair to turn them on the street. What sort of fair play is there in that? If the policy were adopted that every one who comes into the new department should enter ab initio under the Civil Service Commission no fault could be found as there would be no favouritism or preference. What I object to is that the minister should take this particular group of employees and make them permanent without complying with the Civil Service Act.

Mr. ROWELL: I have already stated that I will allow the clause to stand until the Bill comes into committee again.

On section 6—Exclusive power of commission to purchase:

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will the minister explain the signification of the expression "right to purchase"? My hon. friend from Antigonish and Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) said a moment ago that before the Public Accounts Committee it was established there was an officer with the King's Printer whose duty it was to distribute advertisements to the press throughout Canada. Advertisements given by the Government to the press constitute a purchase of space. Will this express "right to purchase" include that purchase? Some days ago, whilst discussing the Post Office Department, I suggested to my hon. friend that the Government should put an end to the policy of wide advertising in such cases as mail contracts, and I gave some concrete instances. It came to my knowledge last

[Mr. McKenzie.]

year that a weekly paper published in the county of Drummond and Arthabaska had notices of tenders for mail contracts to be awarded in the province of British Columbia. This is a pure waste of money, and the commission should have power to direct the purchase of space in the press. If the minister will assure me that this expression, "right to purchase," covers the purchase of space in the newspapers for advertising purposes I have nothing more to say.

Mr. ROWELL: This clause would not cover such a purchase. I do not think that advertising in an ordinary newspaper could be defined as a purchasable supply. If it came under this clause the commission would thereby be made an advertising agency. I quite agree that a case such as the hon. member has mentioned should not occur. It is useless advertising for a contract that is to be awarded in a place miles away from the place of publication. The advertising should be confined to the district in which the contract is to be given.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Could not the commission be given the necessary powers to deal with a case of this kind? There is no question that enormous expenditures are made for advertising. I do not object to legitimate advertisements, such as calling for tenders. The commission itself will have to advertise, and the Bill authorizes it to call for tenders. Could not the Bill be so drafted as to include the organization of the various expenditures incurred in connection with advertising?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: It would have no special relation to this Act. I agree generally with the remarks of my hon. friend, but I think the matter he suggests is one of departmental policy, probably covered by some piece of general legislation. Under section 6 it could not come within the scope of the commission, because if the commission were soliciting tenders for certain purchases they would first have to secure from the press tenders for the advertising, and that would not be practicable. I hardly think my hon. friend's suggestion can be covered in this Bill, which is intended to apply merely to the purchases of material.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I think it will be conceded that a great economy can be effected by a proper purchase of newspaper space. Any advertising agent will tell you that space is a commodity in business, and since we are creating a commission to have jurisdiction over general purchases I think it should be given the necessary power to direct advertising.