

Mr. ROBB: If my hon. friend were occupying the position he formerly held in the government of which he was a distinguished member he would support this vote. Smuggling has been increasing enormously in recent years. High powered automobiles have been used in this traffic, and the fact that the United States was dry and that there was a temptation to smuggle liquor one way and bring back cigarettes, tobacco and silks has been a contributing factor. In fact, the whole service appeared to be demoralized, and the Acting Minister of Customs and Excise has had to let out some officers who had been trusted but who had been tempted by this traffic. A committee representing importers urged us to apply more strictly the customs laws and prevent smuggling, and it was decided that the minister should be enabled to put on men, known perhaps only to himself and his deputy, not only to watch the smugglers but to see that the officers within the department did their duty.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am not objecting at all to the taking of steps to prevent smuggling. I know there is a great deal of smuggling of whiskey into American territory—

Mr. ROBB: And into Canada—both ways.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Well, I do not know to what extent my hon. friends have allowed this matter to drift or how alarming the situation is. I am not objecting to anything being done to put down these offences, but I did rise to object to the appointment of officials other than in the legal manner. Of course, if, as the minister says, these officers are to be temporarily employed in protective service; if they are not to go on the pay list in the ordinary way, it is a different matter.

Mr. ROBB: That is the idea.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: But that is not the way it is worded. This looks as if we are making a lot of new permanent positions and removing them from the operation of the Civil Service Act. If that is so, I have no hesitation in saying it is wrong.

Mr. ROBB: That is not the intention at all.

Mr. CARDIN: All these positions will be temporary.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: How temporary?

Mr. CARDIN: As long as we are satisfied with their services.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That will mean a life job in some cases at least.

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is an admission on my hon. friend's part.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I admit it will be a short period, because when we get back into power we will see that this thing is done legally and not in the manner my hon. friend suggests. But when my hon. friend says that, he means they will be permanent so far as he can effect it.

Mr. CARDIN: Those who have been asking for these appointments have asked that they be made by the minister and not subject to the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not doubt it—chiefly, I suppose, the ones who want the appointments.

Mr. CARDIN: No, resolutions of boards of trade.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If we are to have a detective service of any value to be used against smugglers, its personnel must be changed frequently.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like to protest against this further extension of the practice of appointing men altogether outside the Civil Service Act. Something like thirty-three per cent of the total personnel in the public service is to-day more or less subject to patronage, notwithstanding the fact that a few years ago we thought we had gotten rid of patronage in this country. In connection with the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment there are some 3,094; in the Soldier Settlement Board, 618; in the Income Tax department, 1,211; and then under order in council P.C. 1053 we had 12,804 brought in, a total of 17,727, and under the votes that have been put through a very considerable number of employees are exempt from the Civil Service Act. It seems to me this is a tendency which ought to be checked. With regard to these proposed appointments I should like to quote a paragraph from an editorial which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen of March 10 last:

The United States presents an experience parallel to that now being put through in the House of Commons. Appointments to the Prohibition Enforcement Bureau in that country were exempted by the terms of the Volstead Act from the provisions of the civil service law. In "Good Government," the organ of the National Civil Service Reform League, the president of the league is reported as follows in regard to the nature of the appointments made by the politicians for prohibition enforcement:

"Everyone knows that a large proportion of that force is composed of grafters, thugs and miscreants, who not only take bribes, but are guilty of unlawful acts of violence. Whether the Volstead Act can ever be fully enforced or not, it certainly cannot be so enforced so long as a substantial part, if not the majority, of