

that the majority will do as they please and that they will feel less bound to consider the interests of the minority than if they were put on their honour.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—The hon. gentleman does not mean to say that the United States officials are destitute of honour? I think they have more honourable men than we have here, and better civil servants.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I did not catch what the hon. gentleman said. My view is that under this Bill, the commissioners are independent and are put on their honour to do what is fair and right, and I think that instead of gaining, you would lose if you put on a third man who would be supposed to have exclusive charge of the interests of the friends of the opposition.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I hardly agree with my hon. friend from Hastings, that it is desirable to insert the provision he suggests in this Bill, nor do I agree with him in the estimate he gives of what are called independent men. I think I have in my mind men whom it would be very hard for anybody in this House to state which political party they had the greatest leaning to, and who would be admirably adapted for the carrying out of this work. What I think would be very desirable and fair to parliament is, that the government should submit to the House, before passing the Bill, a list of names out of which they would select the commissioners. I know that was the course pursued in the settlement of the land question in Prince-Edward Island. Government submitted a list of names of the arbitrators that would be selected, and the list was satisfactory to both parties, as long as the names would be taken from the list presented. If hon. gentlemen in the government had considered the matter earlier and had furnished the list of names, it would have been a guarantee that the appointments would be placed in good hands. I regard it of the greatest importance that it should be done on the high plane of fair play as between the civil servants themselves and their status, and also as between the two political parties. There is another reason why I take this view, and it is this: the provision we are putting in the law

with regard to the commissioners being only removable by both Houses of parliament, I do not attach very much importance to, because if the commissioners were to act as partisans for a political party, you may depend upon it the political party that was discriminated against and had the majority in both Houses would repeal the clause in the Act which forbids removal of commissioners by Governor in Council. They could do that with the greatest ease. Parliament could repeal that clause, and, therefore, the men who would be appointed as commissioners could not possibly afford to snap their fingers at public opinion and justice, because a way could be had of bringing them up if they were to act as partisans. Apart even from the consideration that we have power to repeal, it has been held in cases that arose in the Australian colonies, where they have the same provision in their constitutional Act as we have, that judges, for instance, may be removed by the Governor in Council. In one or two of the Australian colonies they put provisions in their law that persons appointed by letters from the Crown could only be dismissed by address, and the Privy Council has held that that Act was ultra vires. But anyway we know that parliament could repeal its own Act and therefore the commissioners could not possibly afford to go in defiance of principles of justice and fair play as between the two political parties, and make appointments of a partisan nature.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—The provision in the Civil Service Act authorizes the president to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, three persons not more than two of whom shall be adherents of the same political party, and they shall constitute the Civil Service Commission. The president may remove any commissioner, but in filling a vacancy the president and the Senate must conform to the first provision as to the selection of a commissioner. I do not for my part agree with the suggestion of the hon. senator from Hastings. I hope that the commissioners to be appointed will be persons who will command the confidence of the country, not so much because of their political views as their character and qualification