

procreation, is feeding at the public crib. Never in the worst days of patronage as practised heretofore by members of Parliament, has there been seen or could there be such a case as that of the head of one of those departments, responsible to whom? Apparently to nobody. The member of Parliament, when he exercises patronage, has a direct responsibility to the people who made him a member of Parliament; and when you take the responsibility of appointments, and of recommendations of appointments, from the men who have been elected by the people, you are striking a blow at responsible government, and you are establishing in this country the very thing you are fighting against to-day in Germany—government by a bureaucracy which, without any responsibility to the people, will control the appointments to the public service of this country.

So far as I am personally concerned, in common with the rest of my colleagues in this House, I have no personal interest in this matter; our day has passed with regard to this, in the case of those of us who have had a day; but I am looking to the interests of this country. One would think, on reading the newspapers, that as soon as a man becomes a member of this Senate he becomes allied, by the very terms of his appointment, with all the vested interests of the country—with the robber barons of the country. I say that the men in this House are quite as competent to judge what will be in the interest of the public service as are the men who write newspapers, or the men who sit in the other House; and I believe that the members of this House are permeated with the desire to do what is best in the interest of this country.

I simply make my protest in regard to this matter. I protest against the Bill, first, on account of the principle of the Bill, which strikes a blow at responsible government in this country. I say also that I do not believe the millennium will come; I do not believe that there will be any improvement in the public service of this country by reason of the recommendations for appointment being taken away from the public men of this country and placed in the hands of officials. You are penalizing a man because he takes an interest in the politics of his country. Because a man is a ward worker he must be penalized; he must not be recommended to any public office; but some man will be recommended and may be appointed who does not take the trouble to vote, who has never taken enough interest in his country to be

Hon. Mr. FOWLER.

interested in elections. I say that the day we get everybody in this country to take an interest in elections, the day that every man in the Dominion who is entitled to a vote will go and cast it, we shall have made a great advance in the interest of pure and good government. I regret that this Bill is likely to be passed and become law. I do not think that it will have the effect that its promoters expect.

Hon. Mr. BOYER: Withdraw.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: May I ask my honourable friend, (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) why reference is made, not in the statute, but in the amendment he proposed, to the employment of reporters, clerks, and stenographers in the Supreme Court, but nothing is said about the Exchequer Court?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Those in the Exchequer Court are under the Civil Service Act; those in the Supreme Court are not.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: May I ask if the Acts which are repealed are all the past legislation with regard to the civil service?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I understand so. I understand that these recitals will cover all the Acts which should be repealed.

Section 53 was agreed to.

Schedules A, B and C were agreed to.

Hon. Mr. POWER: Mr. Chairman, before you report the Bill, I wish to call the attention of the honourable leader of the House to a suggestion which I made in the early stage of the discussion. Paragraph f of the definition clause says:

(f) "Civil Service" means and includes all officers, clerks or employees in the service of the Crown.

Under that definition any ordinary labourer working on a highway or on any other public work is a member of the Civil Service, and I think that the ordinary man, in speaking of the Civil Service, does not mean to include temporary employees of that sort. I suggested that I thought there should be sufficient ingenuity amongst the employees of the Government to make a better definition of "Civil Service" than that.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is intended to cover all employees.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I hope that the honourable leader of the House, if he has