

has actually saved this government and country thousands of dollars, by handling the position in a businesslike way.

Speaking of the appointee, personally, may I say that he is a Nova Scotian. He is a returned soldier with a splendid war record. Enlisting as a private, he was promoted in France to the rank of captain, and went up to be a most efficient quartermaster. He was the quartermaster of the first machine gun brigade in France and went through some of the worst fighting of the war as one of the most efficient quartermasters in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He has fulfilled the duties of his office most satisfactorily, and I am sure hon. members will agree with what I say. This is peculiarly an appointment by the House of Commons and I ask hon. members to support me and to make the appointment permanent, as this is a perfectly legal way of doing it. There are precedents for it. The matter might be referred to the civil service commission; they would set a written examination, the success of the applicant under which would in no respect be a definite indication of his fitness. You might get a round plug in a square hole; nine times out of ten you do, on civil service examinations.

We have here a practical and an efficient man who, as I say, has been fulfilling the duties of the position for a couple of years. He is quite competent to fill the job, and I ask the house to support me in the appointment.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I move in amendment that item No. 291 be reduced by \$1,997.

Mr. MacINNIS: I should like to say a few brief words in support of the senior member for Ottawa (Mr. Chevrier). I listened to Mr. Speaker state the qualifications of the person appointed to this position. I do not know the individual, but assuming his qualifications are as good as has been stated by Mr. Speaker, I must add we have not heard the qualifications of individuals who because of seniority and equally faithful service may be entitled to this position. It is quite true that the civil service commission can make an appointment, and that the government has the right to proceed in the present manner. I suggest however we should not lose sight of the fact that the civil service commission was created to deal with matters of this kind, and it was found through experience that the civil service commission could deal with these matters better than the government. If it is true, as Mr. Speaker suggests, that nine times out of ten the civil service commission make wrong appointments, then surely it is time the legislation creating

the commission was repealed, and the commission done away with. I do not think however that any member of the government would substantiate the statement made by Mr. Speaker. I think it has been shown on many occasions that the civil service commission is better qualified to make the appointments than is the government or the head of any governmental department. When discussing the central bank legislation the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) referred to the difficulty of carrying on the administration of the country without political interference. I suggest that if we want to get away from political interference we should not put ourselves in the position of taking appointments away from a body in charge of that work, and doing it through political interference. We ought to try to impress upon the Canadian people that we want to administer our affairs without political bias. We cannot do that if we allow appointments of this kind to be made.

Mr. BENNETT: The House of Commons claims the right to appoint its own housekeeper. As to whether or not that is sound I am not at the moment going to express an opinion, beyond this, that the Speaker of this chamber made a recommendation to the government as to who should be appointed housekeeper. The government assumes the responsibility for the item as it appears in the estimates.

Amendment (Mr. Chevrier) negatived.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

To provide for payment of compensation as listed below, to owners of animals affected with diseases coming under the operation of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, which have died or have been slaughtered under circumstances unprovided for under the above-mentioned act and regulations thereunder:

Boivin, Wilfred, R.R. 2, Compton, Que., \$22.
 Lamy, W. B., R.R. 2, Compton, Que., \$16.
 Mockler, Thos. F., R.R. 2, Grand Falls, N.B., \$8.
 Giberson, Lewis A., Bath, N.B., \$14.
 Garlough, Simon and Feeley, Floyd, Winchester, Ont., \$10.
 Caswell, Wm. F., Bulwer, Que., \$4.
 Lapointe, Alamanzor, Bury, Que., \$16.
 Berry, W. J., Kingston Mills, Ont., \$10.
 Davidson, Jos., Westboro, Ont., \$6.
 Niles, John W., Wolfe Island, Ont., \$18.
 Moloughney, Michael, North Gower, Ont., \$16.
 Lemelin, Eugene, Cookshire, R.R. 4, Que., \$24.
 Dunfield, Fred, Sussex, R.R. 1, N.B., \$16.
 McAfee, John, Red Head, N.B., \$10.
 Young, John, Mansonville, Que., \$16.
 Alton, V. LeRoy, R.R. 2, Guelph, Ont., \$30.
 Davis, N. G., Glen Sutton, Que., \$13.33.
 Ruel, Fabien, L'Ange Gardien, Que (Rouville Co.), \$18.