

the second reading of a measure the rules are that the principle of the measure is to be considered, and it has been laid down on more than one occasion, in fact, it is embodied in the notations under the rules under which we conduct this assembly, that it is not competent upon the second reading of the bill to take it up and discuss it section by section. I did not, however, in any way intervene in the course pursued by my right hon. friend opposite because I thought his remarks in the house might shorten the discussion in committee.

The principle of the bill is, first, the creation of a tariff board—not a tariff and advisory board on taxation, but simply a tariff board. The very next question which obviously will be asked by any gentleman who once conceives that a tariff board is necessary is: How shall it come into being? It comes into being by the exercise by the executive of its appointing powers. How many shall be appointed? The answer is that three shall be appointed. Then comes the question: For what period of time shall they hold office? My hon. friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) last evening gave the reason why the period of ten years had been selected. It might well have been that one member should hold office for ten years, another for eleven and another for twelve, so that continuity of practice and jurisprudence could be observed in such a tribunal. I would not object to such a provision being made. When it is suggested however that the appointment should be made during pleasure I ask any hon. member in this house who has had business experience this question: Do you think you will get competent men to undertake these onerous duties during pleasure? I quite agree for instance with the statement made yesterday by my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition when he said that there are economists of note in this country. Of course there are. But does any hon. member assume he can get an economist of note to abandon his position at a great university, where in addition to a steady salary he has provision for a pension either under the Carnegie foundation or under the statutes of the university itself, and accept office on a tariff board during pleasure? I think not. I do not think any hon. member believes that would be possible. He would analyse exactly what is involved by the surrender of a present position for an uncertain tenure of office, an office to be fixed during pleasure. I think any hon. member would come to the conclusion that such a surrender would be most unreasonable to

expect. It has been stated that the government holds office only during pleasure. I do not think it is proper to compare the status of one appointed to a position carrying certain statutory powers with that of a member of the house or of an administration.

Here we require a man who must first of all have a trained and disciplined mind. Secondly, he must have power to appreciate the value of evidence and be able to determine what facts have been established by such evidence. He must have education and training, and in addition he must be able to detach himself from those external surroundings and forces which would militate against his usefulness. How can that be done? How can it be done if that man is interested for instance in the result of an election, if he has to see whether or not he will be acceptable to another administration? Why should he be anxious or have to watch the returns of an election to learn whether or not this government or that shall come into office? This board may be termed an experiment. Some people may even think it represents a hope incapable of realization. I say, sir, to you and to hon. members in this house that so far as the government of the day is concerned it will make the most earnest possible effort within its powers to select men for the positions provided for in the measure who will be capable of discharging the duties of their high offices with credit and distinction to this country and to themselves. If any hon. member for a moment believes that political views or the bent of mind of individuals will be the determining factor in the selection of members of the board he is entirely mistaken.

First of all we must have a chairman of merit. In the very necessity of things one member of that commission must come from the province of Quebec. In the very nature of things one should come from the agrarian west. If three members are to constitute the court the chairman of that tribunal must possess the qualifications which would enable him to discharge the onerous duties devolving upon him. He must be in a position to discharge those duties because of his vast experience and training—not his experience as chairman of a board such as the one proposed but, on the contrary, experience in weighing evidence, sifting it out, ascertaining the facts established by the evidence and being able to grasp the testimony as it is presented and to ascertain the facts clearly established by such evidence. It has been contended that in determining the issues which must be settled by such a tribunal it is not proper that they should have the power to