

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The weakness is shown in the last line, where they can only investigate under an order in council. Why should they not have that power without an order in council?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Our system of government is responsible to the people, and if you transfer that responsibility to officials, you are taking it away from the administration entirely.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—If the words 'Governor in Council' were struck out it would give the commission the power to make the inquiries which can now be made only by order in council.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—If there were any justification whatever for it, no government could turn down the suggestion or recommendations by the commission that an investigation should take place into the conduct of any officials or management.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—I do not think it would do to substitute a commission, irremovable, practically, for responsible government.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—That would be the effect.

Hon. Mr. ROSS—You would make the commissioners so independent of parliament and so indifferent to parliament, that you could not endure them.

The clause and subclauses were adopted.

On clause 11,

1. The present Civil Service examiners shall continue to hold office during pleasure, and shall be under the direction of the commission.

2. The powers of the Civil Service examiners as a board under sections 7 to 15, both inclusive, of the Civil Service Act shall be vested in, and may be exercised by, the commission; and for the purposes of the said sections, either member of the commission may exercise any function or power vested by the said sections in the chairman of the board.

3. The said sections shall, so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply to examinations under this Act.

4. Such further examiners as are deemed necessary may be appointed by the commission.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—It would seem the intention of this clause is to provide examiners ad hoc, or as a permanent staff who are to be paid a certain remuneration

and whose duty it is to conduct examinations and report. Has my hon. friend looked into the United States system? There, when an examination is made in connection with appointments for any department, the examiners are the officers of the department. If an examination were to be held for appointments in the Post Office Department the other members of the service were detailed by the commissioners to conduct that examination, and during the time of serving on the examination, they were removed from their official duties. I can conceive that these examinations will become a matter of expense, and men of dignity and standing will feel that they are in duty bound to preserve the honour and efficiency of the service if they had to pass upon those who were to be admitted to the service. As it stands now, the medical council is the custodian of the honour and status of the profession, and so with all the professions. Would we not confer an additional dignity upon the Civil Service if we allotted to them the task of passing upon the candidates and their attainments and so on, who were to be admitted by examination into the service?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The various applicants write under numbers. No one knows whose paper is being judged at all. It seems to me that absolute secrecy should prevail as to these examinations from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Those examinations take place on papers prepared by the present Board of Examiners, men who are intellectually quite equal to the duties; the parties write under a fictitious name or particular number, so when a paper is judged you do not know from what source it emanates. No one could tell who the writer is and, therefore, you secure excellence without any kind of partiality. Occasionally there is an attempt at personation which has been brought to my notice; but in 99 cases out of 100 the examinations are fully and honourably conducted. In reference to examinations being held by those who are already in the service, I should not approve of that at all. The promotion examination should be passed upon by the deputy minister, because he is supposed to come in personal contact

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED