

fix a minimum salary of \$100 per month for civil servants, who work exclusively for the Dominion government.

The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) went to France on February 10, 1917, and served continuously until the armistice in 1918. He is one of the best debaters in the House of Commons. During his tenure of office, Canada, by actual administration and development, has made a greater and more varied use of aviation than any country in the world. The air services have been re-organized. The station at Camp Borden provides training for officers and airmen. In the prairie provinces where forest fire protection patrols are operated, the stations are all linked up by wireless, so that communication between aircraft and ground stations is maintained during flight. In addition eight photographic detachments operate in various parts of the country taking air photographs for mapping purposes. The work of the civil government air operations also includes exploration and surveys, transportation of men and supplies for survey parties, Indian treaty flights, crop and forest dusting, fishery patrols, airmail investigation, et cetera. This branch, in conjunction with the Department of Marine and Fisheries, was responsible for carrying out the survey and observation on ice conditions in the Hudson strait. Besides that, there is the excellent work done by the civil aviation branch and the aeronautical engineering branch. With regard to empire communication, the R-100 is about completed and expected to make an initial flight to Canada shortly and, to use the minister's own words: "We hope that the experiment in closer communication between our British brothers and ourselves will be crowned with success." The minister proved to be a very distinguished representative of Canada at the last naval parley on the limitation of armaments at St. James palace and the fact that our Minister of National Defence advocates peace is a great credit to the government.

As Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has attended several imperial conferences in London where his advice was often sought. He also signed in Paris last year the Kellogg pact for peace.

These are the men who have assisted the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) in the careful preparation of the budget which has been presented this year, and, to paraphrase the words of Sir Herbert Holt, they have formulated and executed effective meas-

[Mr. Pouliot.]

ures for the maintenance of that equilibrium which will ensure state prosperity.

I am not in favour of high protection, nor am I in favour of free trade; I think a moderate protective policy is the wisest, and that is what this government advocates. The present budget essentially is a technical one, and that is the reason why some of the hon. members on the other side of the house do not understand it. On June 12 of last year the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) said that the tariff board was "a glorified commission to enable the minister to escape responsibility." When he made that statement he did not know the kind of budget which would be presented this year. At that time the government were working on the preparation of this budget, but it would have been impossible to draw up such a budget without the assistance of everyone who was in a position to obtain reliable and complete information from the people, who are the ones interested in this matter. Tribute is due to the tariff board for the amount of information they have supplied to the government. The present budget is not one which gives benefit to certain sections of the country; it is a budget for the whole of Canada and everyone will receive benefits. Even those hon. members who speak against it because they do not understand it will receive benefits as well as all other citizens of this country. Last year we had hon. gentlemen speaking of a "wait and see" policy. We have waited and now we can all see. I believe the result is satisfactory. I am frank enough to say that I do not approve all the appointments that are made by the government; sometimes I think they could have been better, but we must consider the general policy of the government which is very satisfactory. I trust the present leaders of the Liberal party in this house, because it is the real Liberal party. The leaders that we have here are sound and able.

Mr. McGIBBON: What about Quebec?

Mr. POULIOT: In Quebec they might call themselves Liberals, but my hon. friend will remember that last year when I asked hon. gentlemen opposite who was the greatest man in the Tory party, he himself said: "Taschereau." So my hon. friend has the same views as I have with regard to his qualifications. I am glad to support the general policy of this government, although it is not perfect. No one can expect to find anything perfect in this world, but the government is the nearest approach to perfection.