

same view that the Commissioners hold and who are supporters of the government for the time being. In the United States, in order to avoid as much as possible the use of political power by the commissioners under the Civil Service Act, I find that their Act in reference to the appointment of commissioners whose duties are to a certain extent similar to those we impose upon the Civil Service, contains these words:

Not more than two of them shall be adherents of the same political party.

This, or something similar to it, would fit in very well after the word 'members' in the 21st line of the clause. If the government really desire to remove entirely the political influences that will be brought to bear upon the commissioners and the favouritism which the commissioners might show in making a selection of candidates, they ought in these appointments not to be both of the same political character. In the appointment to the three commissioners in the United States, provision is made that only two shall be of the same political party. One strong reason to my mind why the policy of selecting, if there are to be two commissioners, one from each party, or if there are to be three, two of one party and one of another, is that the law provides that you cannot remove any or either of those commissioners except by vote of parliament, and then there must be a complaint against them which would justify parliament in dismissing them, or, in other words, the commissioners are placed in precisely the same position as the judges of the courts and the Auditor General.

Hon. Mr. COMEAU—Do you shut out the independent man?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Not if you could pick out an independent man, who had no politics or prejudices. I have not the most exalted opinion of what you call independent men. To illustrate what I am saying, I will cite a little incident which occurred in Toronto. A politician was going through the lunatic asylum, and got into a conversation with a little English woman, who asked him what he was doing in Toronto. He said he was a member of

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the local legislature, and she asked him the question, 'What politics are you?' He said, 'Oh, I am a h' independent.' She said, smilingly, 'Oh, yes, I understand that exactly; that is a man who is ready to be bought and sold at any time by whoever is in power.' I am not prepared to say that is my opinion, but that was the lunatic's definition of an Independent. Of course if the hon. gentleman from Digby recommends the appointment of an independent man, I hope he will not be of that character:

Hon. Mr. POWER—I think there is a great deal of force in what the hon. gentleman has said, and when I first heard of this commission I thought that it would be wise to follow the example of the United States; but the government took a different view, and I suppose the government were right. They sometimes are right. There are two or three reasons which tend to make one believe that my first impression is not correct. In the first place, we are supposed to imitate the English system, and the system which they have in the United States is not the English system; then there is another circumstance to which I wish to direct the attention of the committee, and that is that when this Bill was introduced it did not contain the provision which it now contains, that these commissioners should hold office during good behaviour. In the House of Commons, it was felt desirable that these commissioners should be independent of the government and that provision was put in. I think that as a general thing if an officer feels that he is completely independent of the government, he is likely to do his duty honestly and without any undue favour to friends of the government. Hon. gentlemen will remember that the ex-Auditor General was appointed in this way, and no one could accuse him at any time of unduly favouring the members of his own party; and I assume that these commissioners will be something of the same stamp. Then there is another circumstance. If you adopt the United States plan, and provide that there shall be three commissioners, two of them belonging to the party in power and one belonging to the opposition, I think the effect will be