

control—the importance of which feature Sir Alexander Gibb stresses time and time again—and the central board would provide safeguards with regard to finances.

As I have said, inasmuch as the Government has to carry the responsibility, I approve of the principle of the Bill. I hope the scheme will work. But because all the employees, all the purchasing and all the contracts will be under the control of three men here, I do not believe it will work.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable senators, my honourable friend knows that during the years when he was a member of the harbour commission of Montreal, in the régime of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he never received from me a letter stating what I thought should be done or asking a favour for anyone, although I think I can say I was fairly well in the centre of political affairs in Montreal. It gives me a feeling of satisfaction that the decision was to leave the harbour commissioners free to administer that port. We have the statement of my honourable friend that the commission was not interfered with in the least, but, on the contrary, was supported by the then Minister of Marine, Mr. Brodeur, and by Sir Wilfrid Laurier—

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: And by Mr. Hazen.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes, in the Government that followed.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: And also by myself.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend says that patronage should be abolished and appointments made under the Civil Service Commission. Well, I should say that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, if not in every case, the positions with respect to which pressure would be exerted on behalf of applicants are such that they would not come under the Civil Service Commission, for they are below those in the permanent grades. My honourable friend admits to-day, in this month of June, seven or eight months after the present Administration assumed office, that the permanent staffs have not been disturbed. To my knowledge they have not been disturbed for the last twenty-five years. I have always noticed the same men doing the work, regardless of what party happened to be in power. The point I want to make is that even if the Civil Service Commission were given the suggested control there still would be a large number of positions with respect to which patronage could come into play.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE.

It has been urged that tenders should be opened publicly. I will not deal with that subject now. I accept the suggestion of my right honourable friend who leads the other side, and I move that these amendments be referred to the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours. I shall try to have the Minister of Marine and Fisheries present at the committee.

This morning my right honourable friend complained that the Minister had not expressed disapproval of our amendments when they were being considered in committee. I communicated my right honourable friend's remarks to the Minister. His answer surprised me, but I recall the incident to which he refers. He said: "I went to the committee. You asked me to express my view on the amendment to give control to the Civil Service Commission, and the Right Hon. Mr. Meighen said he did not need my opinion. So, of course, I refrained from stating it."

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I want to put it on record that the Minister's statement is not quite correct. What was under discussion at the time he refers to was the principle of the use of the Civil Service Commission. And when my honourable friend, I think, suggested that we might hear from the Minister, I stated that I did not think his views would be any different from those that had already been fully expressed by the leader of the Government.

The motion was agreed to.

## BANK OF CANADA BILL

### THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of Bill 82, an Act to amend the Bank of Canada Act.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I have given as much study as time permitted to this long prognosticated measure. If in these strenuous hours at the close of the session a very tired man can completely succumb to a sense of humour, I am under the impression that I have done so in consequence of all that has taken place with respect to this Bank of Canada.

Two years ago Parliament passed the legislation establishing the Bank of Canada. It was to be privately owned; that is, the public were to be invited to subscribe the capital, \$5,000,000. The bank was to be managed by a board of directors elected by the owners of that capital stock. There were to be appointed by the Governor in Council a Governor and a Deputy Governor. The Bill provided further—I have the quotations before