

here, as one example, the names of officials of the National Revenue Department, it will prove that we have reason to have apprehensions when our interests are at stake.

I shall quote the names of the principal officials of the National Revenue Department. Let us see whether we find one French Canadian name. The hon. minister who is in charge of the department is the Hon Mr. Matthews; his private secretary is Mr. Code; the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Scully; the Commissioner of Excise, Mr. Sim; the Commissioner of Income Tax, Mr. Elliott; the Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Blair; the Assistant to the General Executive, Mr. Ide. I hold no animosity against those who do not belong to my race—

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): And Mr. Gaborouy?

Mr. DUBOIS (Translation): Among the English speaking members as well as among the English speaking employees there are qualified, intelligent, straightforward and conscientious men who are fair in the distribution of work and if they had to settle the present question, would not fear to do justice to our compatriots who could ably fill posts in the public service or elsewhere.

The hon. Secretary of State still persists in having this Bill No. 4 enacted, notwithstanding the press campaign carried on against it throughout the country. It is true that the hon. member for Labelle designated as little scraps of paper the petitions that were signed and articles that were published in newspapers, such as the "Devoir," the "Droit," "l'Action Catholique," and "Le Canada." He designated as little scraps of paper the warning of our national associations. But it was public opinion that spoke. The hon. Secretary of State is sufficiently wise, open-minded to realize the injustice this bill is doing us. With the broad-mindedness I know he has, I think the Secretary of State should not insist further, he should even drop the bill so as not to force us to vote against it.

Mr. DESLAURIERS moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

## SUPPLY

### DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Gagnon in the chair.

Chief electoral officer—salaries and contingencies of office, \$14,724.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): This is the usual vote for the chief electoral

officer. There is no change in salaries or in contingencies in that office in these estimates as compared with the estimates for the previous year.

Mr. MARCIL: Is the minister in a position to give us the number of returning officers who have been dismissed since the last general election?

Mr. CAHAN: As a matter of fact I cannot give the hon. gentleman that information. If he will ask for a return, however, I will see that it is brought down. I stand in a peculiar position in regard to the chief electoral officer; he is an independent officer of this house, but he formally approaches the house in connection with his estimates through the Secretary of State. I do not control his dismissals or appointments in any way, and since I have been in office he has never consulted me in respect to either dismissals or new appointments.

Mr. MICHAUD: Do I understand the Secretary of State to say that the chief electoral officer is independent of this house, or independent of the ministry?

Mr. CAHAN: No, he is an independent officer of the house, independent of the Secretary of State. I simply represent this officer, nominally, in presenting his estimates to the house, and any instructions the house has to give usually go through the Secretary of State. The chief electoral officer is an officer over whom I have no control; whose office I do not supervise, and who has never consulted me with regard to dismissals, if dismissals have been made, or in regard to appointments. I am simply asking for this vote for the chief electoral officer for the present year.

Mr. MICHAUD: I should like to be informed as to whether the chief electoral officer is responsible to anyone or whether he has any superior officer. How is he appointed?

Mr. CAHAN: He is appointed under a statute of the houses of parliament. He is not responsible to any superior officer; he is responsible to parliament.

Mr. MICHAUD: Is he actually appointed by statute or is he appointed by order in council?

Mr. CAHAN: He is not appointed by order in council; he is appointed by parliament as provided by statute.

Mr. MARCIL: I should like to say a word with regard to the dismissal of the returning officer in my constituency, and I am sorry