

the best of their ability, and, so long as that is done, no government can be blamed because they may have selected them from one political party or the other. I do not mean to claim the right of the political parties to recommend the appointment of judges. It is the right of anybody, no matter what party he belongs to, to expect to have that appointment conferred upon him. I can say of many of the appointments made since the present government came in power, that the single consideration was, whether the man would be likely to accept the appointment and whether he would be fit for the position.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I might resent the implied charge that any reflection is cast upon the impartiality or honour of the bench. I am sure every hon. gentleman of the chamber will hold the same high opinion of the bench already expressed, but it was simply the principle that was under discussion.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—First of all, we talk for our own province and what is good there is good everywhere else. Under the present Act when they hold these examinations, young men come from colleges or high schools, in the freshness of youth, supposing all they have to do is to pass an examination and then receive an appointment. They pass the examination, many of them, but never get any position; but under this Bill I can see, if it is as I understand it, when an examination is held, such as they have in Somerset House, England, if there are 500 candidates for examination, and there should be 20 opportunities for positions open, those who pass the highest will get the position irrespective of politics or anything else. I think the government are doing an excellent thing. I do not always feel inclined to back up everything the government does, although I swallow it sometimes; but this is a reform that must commend itself to the country.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I wish to emphasize the opinion that I have already expressed in an incidental way, that I could not support a motion that would insist that these commissioners should be selected one from each political party. I think that would keep alive a feeling of partisanship,

and the idea that these appointments were to be had by political friends, and you would find politicians would be pestering the government of the day for appointments. I think, therefore, it would be very much better to depend upon the high character of the men you would appoint on the commission. I only wish we had a list of the names from which the commissioners would be selected, so that we would have the assurance that the men appointed would be men of high character.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I am rather surprised at the hon. gentleman from Toronto finding it necessary to make the speech he did in laudation of the judges of Ontario. I think the only one who referred to the judges at all was myself, and if my recollection serves me right I used the expression that it had been our good fortune in Ontario to have a class of men on the bench against whom no charges of political influence could be brought. I do not understand the necessity at all for a eulogistic speech such as the hon. gentleman made, because it was not called for by anything I said, and certainly not by anything the hon. gentleman from Calgary said.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I regret that the government has not seen its way to give a wider scope to this commission, so that of its own motion it might have the right or power to investigate the affairs of any department irrespective of the minister.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The first line gives that authority.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—This would not permit the commission to investigate the want of proper organization in a department, or the question of gross extravagance, nor would it permit them to place a limitation on the number of clerks. All it can do is to inquire into the status of the clerks or officers under the Civil Service Act. It seems to me, what the government requires to do is to have a commission in whom the people of Canada will have confidence that they can exercise supervisory and inquisitorial powers, if necessary, into the disorganization into which departments will naturally fall in time.