

Mr. ROWELL: From whoever is the proper official of the department. I presume the deputy minister would make the requisition on the authority of the minister.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I do not know whether the minister is aware that this method of requisitioning is simply perpetuating the patronage system.

Mr. ROWELL: The departments can only requisition for supplies.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: But if they indicate in the requisitions the firms that the purchasing agents go to for their supplies, that is going back to the old patronage lists. It came out in an examination in one of the committees the other day that the departments sent advertising for newspapers to the officer in the King's Printer's department whose duty it is to look after Government advertising, and that with that advertisement was sent a list of the newspapers in which it was to be inserted. These newspapers were selected to suit the minister, and it was simply perpetuating the old patronage system. The officer produced a number of newspapers containing a certain advertisement and they all happened to be of one stripe of politics. We asked if this was not a patronage list, and this officer denied that it was. He said: "We have no patronage lists." "What do you call it then?" he was asked. He said "I call it a selection." That was his new name for it, but it was the same old thing we used to call a patronage list. In sending out this requisition would it be competent for the officers of the department to send a list of the firms to whom the purchasing agent must go to purchase the goods?

Mr. ROWELL: No, it would not. Of course, we cannot prevent the department from sending in any information it wishes with the requisition, but that is no part of the requisition. Forms are supplied on which the department states its requirements, and then the commission makes the purchases.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I understand that about 300 officers from the various departments will come under the direction and control of this new commission. Were all of these officers appointed legally by the Civil Service Commission in the first place? Secondly, were all the employees now in the War Purchasing Commission appointed by the Civil Service Commission? In this transfer from the several departments to the

[Mr. Sinclair.]

new commission will those who have not been legally appointed by the Civil Service Commission have to undergo the usual competitive examination?

Mr. ROWELL: This Commission was constituted and the majority of those in its employ were appointed, before the extended jurisdiction was given to the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. LEMIEUX: How many are there?

Mr. ROWELL: I think, 33. All who have been appointed to the staff since the early part of 1918, when the Civil Service Commission was given jurisdiction over them, have been appointed on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission and have passed whatever examination was required. I cannot tell how many are in one class and how many in another. They advertised for two or three men to do a particular class of work and I think they had 792 applications for these positions. They secured, I believe, two very efficient men, but it indicates there were a large number willing to serve.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: What positions?

Mr. ROWELL: I have forgotten what the positions were.

Mr. MCKENZIE: The Commission itself was only tentative or temporary. Does the minister say that the civil servants appointed in the service of that temporary Commission, will continue permanently although the Commission itself has expired?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, that cannot happen. The Commission and all its employees may pass away but the Civil Service Act of last year provided that appointments to commissions of a temporary character must be made by the Civil Service Commission. Some of the war commissions, in selecting their staffs, paid higher salaries than were given the members of the staffs of the several departments of Government. The result was an obvious discrimination between those regularly in the service and those who were taken on by these commissions. It naturally caused a great deal of dissatisfaction on the part of those in the Civil Service and a great deal of embarrassment and annoyance to the permanent departments of the Government because the persons employed by these commissions were being paid on a different basis from the others entirely. They had the very same trouble in the United States during the war only they had it in a more aggravated form than we had. It was for that reason that the Civil Service Commission was