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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

SIR Lomer Gouin has introduced a bill defining and extending the powers of the Public Utilities Commission. This was necessary. A public utilities commission without extensive and well defined powers is an absurdity. Its strength and its usefulness will always depend largely upon its personnel; but to be of any use it must have wide discretionary powers. The New York Public Services Commission has been of the greatest value, not only to the public, but to the public service corporations because it has had great powers and the courage to use them intelligently and honestly. The right way to form a public utilities commission is to appoint good men and trust them, until they show themselves unworthy of trust. Then fire them without mercy or hesitation.

RECIPROCITY AND ANNEXATION.

WE are preparing to annex Canada, says Mr. Champ Clark, the leader of the Democrats in the United States House of Representatives and the next "Premier" of the United States. Mr. Clark's frankness is refreshing and it ought to arouse Canadians to an appreciation of the true significance of the reciprocity movement. "One flag, the Stars and Stripes, from Central America to the North Pole," is what Mr. Clark wants to see. We do not believe that one Canadian in a hundred would like to see it; and there are thousands of Canadians who would never consent to live under the Stars and Stripes in Canada. The humiliation would be too great. If they cannot be real Canadians, they would prefer to be real Americans and try to live down in New York: the fact that they once belonged to the conquered nation. President Taft is alleged to have repudiated any sympathy with Mr. Champ Clark's speech, as the expression of the individual view of one man who represents no party. This alleged repudiation is too absurd for serious consideration. Champ Clark to-day represents a bigger party than President Taft himself and he represents the party that is coming into power. If he actually occupied the position of Speaker or of President of the United States his utterance would call for a formal protest from the British Ambassador. As matters stand, the declaration is an insult to Great Britain and to Canada and a gross outrage upon good taste. The feel-

ing aroused by it in Canada is both deep and bitter. It may not affect the course of legislation at Ottawa, but it will certainly tend to make the position of the reciprocity supporters harder to defend before the country. Such a question as that of Canada's allegiance to the Crown should not be made the sport of party politics. A dignified remonstrance from the Dominion Government would not be out of place, and would tend to separate the reciprocity and annexation questions. This would certainly be in the interests of the reciprocity agreement.

MR. JAMES J. HILL ON RECIPROCITY.

THERE is no more ardent advocate of reciprocity than Mr. James J. Hill, whose interests in reciprocity, are greater than those of any other living man. He effectually and logically disposes of the argument that reciprocity will advance the price of wheat for the Canadian farmer by simply telling the plain obvious truth. He says:—"The price of any commodity of which a country produces a surplus for export is fixed in the market where it must be sold. The demand of the whole world for wheat meets the supply of the world in the Liverpool market. This Liverpool quotation regulates wheat prices in all the markets of the world. It is cabled daily to New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth, Winnipeg and other primary markets of wheat-exporting countries. The price in each of them varies daily with the Liverpool advice. It is, therefore, impossible that this price should be affected by the trade relations of any two of the countries to each other."

The price of wheat in the Canadian west will not be affected by reciprocity. Canadian transportation companies and Canadian exporters will be the chief sufferers.

SENATE REFORM.

ON the motion of Senator David the Senate has passed a resolution appointing a committee to confer with a committee of the House of Commons, on the subject of a better distribution of the legislative world of the two Houses. So far as government measures are concerned the remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs would seem to be in the hands of the Ministry. They have only to give to the Ministers in the