

rifice that we are called upon to make, that we might speak from the heart out, and make an agreement in this country between both parties, that hereafter patronage shall not be applied by political parties in the construction of our public works. Now, that is a frank admission. Some may say to me that I have no right to make it. I presume upon my grey beard and thirty-four years in public life, and I make that statement for what it is worth. I will just append to that one single sentence, and it is this: that if there is any laxity in the public virtue of this country to-day, if there is any canker of public corruption, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred you can trace it to the baleful effect of political party patronage."

Enlistment of Civil Servants.

On the 23rd of February Mr. Pugsley asked whether any difference was made as between one civil servant and another when both enlisted for overseas service. He said:

"We have been informed by the Government that since the first of November last young men in the Civil Service who enlist are allowed the difference between the pay which they receive as military men and their salaries as members of the Civil Service. I am informed that members of the Civil Service who have entered the service since the war began, that is, during the past eighteen months, are deprived of this privilege. I wish to know if that distinction is made and, if so, the reason for it."

The debate proceeded:

"Sir SAM HUGHES: The rule in force is that members of the Civil Service who enlisted in the army prior to the 1st of November last draw their salaries as civil servants and also their pay and allowances as soldiers. Those who have joined the colours since the 1st of November, 1914, receive

their military pay and an additional amount which brings it up to the amount of their Civil Service salaries, if their salaries in the Service were larger than their military pay. I am not aware of the existence of any such rule as my hon. friend had referred to, and I do not think that young men who have joined the Civil Service since the war broke out are discriminated against as he has suggested. I will look into the matter and give my hon. friend further information.

"Mr. PUGSLEY: My information comes from two different sources, and I am satisfied my hon. friend will find, on inquiry, that there is ground for the statement which I have made.

"Sir SAM HUGHES: I will look into it."

Deputy Minister.

In the course of a debate on the estimates for the Department of Justice on the 21st of February, Hon. George P. Graham called attention to the fact that the Deputy Minister of Justice receives \$10,000 a year, as against \$5,000 for some of the deputy ministers. When he was reminded that as Minister of Railways in the former government he had a deputy with a large salary, he explained that the gentleman referred to had held the two positions of deputy minister and chief engineer. It was similarly explained that the present Deputy Minister of Justice also pleads cases in the Supreme Court of Canada and before the Privy Council without fees. Mr. Graham expressed the opinion that the salaries of deputies as a class should not be fixed, but that each should be paid according to work done and responsibility borne.

Estimates.

The House of Commons has spent a good many hours in Committee of Supply. Among the items voted recently are the following: