

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. Have you reduced your staff in the Yukon?—A. We have reduced it I fancy more than any other department in the Yukon. We will probably reduce it a little more. We are down pretty near to rock bottom there.

Q. Take British Columbia, have you made any reductions there?—A. We have not, not recently. We were going to close the office at Revelstoke, and make a little consolidation there, but we have never done that.

Q. Coming back to the Bill now before the committee, it suggests that certain positions, and certain classes of officials should be taken from under the commission. Now, in your department, to what extent should the proposed law go in that respect? What classes of officials, in your judgment, should be taken from under the Civil Service Commission?—A. Of course, as I said, I think the technical men—I think that would be in the interests of the service if they were taken away. Then some of the superior positions, perhaps the man whose range of salary was three thousand or better, which amounts to very few in the aggregate—there might be some advantage looking about and getting a special man for a special position.

Q. Could you give us one illustration of what you have in mind? Let me help you; in my own department, take Mr. White, who is our chief officer in the United States?—A. Yes.

Q. If he dies or resigned to-morrow?—A. I think we could select a man to fill his position much better than the Civil Service Commission.

Q. Take J. Obed Smith; if anything happened to him; he is not a technical man?—A. No, he is a responsible administrative officer, a very important one, and I think we could fill the position.

Q. Would you put it in this way; that in your judgment all heads of branches and all officers for fairly large duties should be appointed direct?—A. I think the whole service outside of Canada—because it is all a local service—for instance we have in the United States an agent and a stenographer; that stenographer gets a better position, and she leaves on a couple of days' notice. That man has nobody in his office but his stenographer, and it is essential he should get one quickly, and we do not appoint them in Canada and send them to the United States. It is essential he should get one and get one in that locality. He is the man that has to work with the stenographer, and he has to depend upon the stenographer, and it seems to me he is in the better position to select the person within twenty-four hours than the Civil Service Commission could by any system of posting notices or advertising in the papers, and they generally come back to the one selected. As far as the Civil Service Commission is concerned, where a man reports in his opinion that a certain person should be appointed, I do not think the Civil Service Commission have in a single instance asked us to take anybody else. For instance we put a girl on; I think they allow us in Great Britain ninety days to put a girl on temporarily. If the certificate of her appointment does not get back in ninety days, that young lady will have to work without salary until her certificate comes along.

Q. In your judgment our entire service in Great Britain and United States should be taken from under the Civil Service Commission?—A. Yes, I cannot see any useful service that the commission performs in connection with it. My own conviction is that their great service can be performed right here in the Inside Service at Ottawa. That is what the old Act contemplated in 1908, and that is where I think their greatest field of usefulness and operation will be found. However, out in our western offices or in Canada anywhere they can probably make those appointments just as well as we can. I have no objection to their doing it if they have not too much to do, and they can do it quickly.

Q. We have three classes; we have your technical and scientific men; that is one class. Secondly, you say that in your judgment your offices in Great Britain and United States should be taken from under the commission. Then in the third

[Mr. W. W. Cory.]