

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): Before the minister answers, may I say that from my experience I have found all the appointees in connection with the collection of income tax are just as efficient as any appointees under the civil service commission. I know that the civil service commission is very thorough in looking into the qualifications of all applicants and makes some very good appointments—

An hon. MEMBER: Occasionally.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): On the other hand, those responsible for the collection of the income tax also make careful inquiry as to the qualifications of applicants, and in the district from which I come I can say that the employees in the income tax division are just as efficient as those who are appointed under the civil service commission.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have not suggested anything else.

Mr. POULIOT: Before the minister answers, since it is impossible for me to take the sanctimonious tone of the leader of the opposition in speaking of patronage, and since I know that if I did, there would be an uproar of laughter in the committee, I shall dispense with it. But I remember quite distinctly that the one who was the leader of the opposition during the election of 1930 said: "You who are hungry, come to me and I will satisfy your hunger. You who are thirsty, come to me and I will quench your thirst." "You who are without work, come to me and I will give you work. I am the one who will cure unemployment." He said that. The hon. leader of the opposition was credulous enough not only to believe it but to preach that doctrine himself. This is why he was elected in 1930, and this is why he was defeated in 1935.

Of course when he was a minister he had to do his share. He followed an illustrious predecessor, the Hon. H. H. Stevens, who also had made promises. It was not only R. B. who had made promises but H. H. was a good promiser. Then the hon. leader of the opposition came after those two, following in their footsteps, trying to satisfy all the people who had been dissatisfied since R. B. came into power. It was a very hard job for him, and I can understand how he found the times hard. Now he says that if he satisfied one man he made nine enemies. I shall not say that he has one single enemy, but I shall say that when he was a minister of the Bennett government he dissatisfied everybody.

The leader of the opposition is the hon. gentleman who now says we shall not have

patronage, that we shall have appointments by the civil service commission. Of course he remembers the dark ages when he was a minister in the Bennett government and suffered from seeing so many people coming to him to whom he could give no jobs. It was pretty hard on him, something that he remembers quite distinctly even now when he is far away from patronage. Now he is signing his name and making life very pleasant for himself. But that is not enough to convince me that he has a clear judgment on the question of appointments.

Is there any complaint about the income tax division? No. At the present time the minister has before him in this chamber two officers, civil servants, who are respected and esteemed, who know their business and to whom the appellation of "cranks" that I have applied in many instances does not apply. They have grown up in the service. One of them is a barrister of wide experience; the other is an elderly civil servant who has grown up in the service and knows his business. They are not university fools, and this is the kind of civil servants that I want in this government, as there was a majority until 1930. I refer to them as an example for the others. I am satisfied with them, and neither of them was appointed by the civil service commission. I will not insist on a certain nomination, because the appointee was meritorious if the procedure was wrong. I praise both of these gentlemen personally, and I praise the staff of the income tax branch. People know them so well that they would not think of trying to get inside information from them; the work is well done and we have no complaints.

With regard to the question of patronage, those who are against what they call patronage are those who are afraid to assume their own responsibility, or those who have a sour mouth on account of difficulties that they have themselves created. They were the artisans of their own troubles, like the leader of the opposition for instance. He can blame only himself and his colleagues in the Bennett government.

I find that the system of appointments at present in force in the income tax branch is the best we could have. The reason is very simple. It is that when an appointment is made on the recommendation of a member of parliament, the minister knows who has recommended that man, and if he is unsatisfactory the member will have to answer for any complaints made in this house by any Conservative, Social Creditor or member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party against