

thought it was June. However, I suggest it was accepted pretty early. I have before me now the order in council itself. The hon. gentleman says December. The order in council is marked "June."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Which one is that?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The one the hon. gentleman sent over.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is one in December.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is "29 June." I will read it. I recollect now the Prime Minister said it was June the other day in answer to the question of the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Duncan). I will read the order and the House can decide.

The committee of the Privy Council—

This is dated June 29, 1922.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The one of December was lying on my table. I have sent it to Hansard. That was the last order that came over.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The December order is an addition and exempts only a very few. This one is the big sweeping order in council and it was passed in June. The government was far more eager than the Prime Minister knew:

The committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration the following report from the Civil Service Commission, dated 14th June, 1922—

I do not know when they received it. Perhaps, it would not be cruel to suggest that it was the evening of the 28th of June.

—submitted by the Secretary of State;

Section 38B of the Civil Service Act, 1908, as amended, prescribes:

And then it quotes what I read to the House from the Statute a moment ago. It goes on to say:

The Civil Service Commissioners are of the opinion that the following classes of positions should be exempt from the operation of the Civil Service Act, under the above section, namely:

1. All positions where the salary does not exceed \$200 per annum.

2. All positions for which the compensation provided is fees of office and positions of an honorary character to which no compensation is attached.

This is the one which the Prime Minister himself read:

3. Positions of Orderly in office of the Governor General's Secretary.

4. Positions of Indian interpreter, Department of Indian Affairs.

5. Positions of physician performing the duties of port physicians under the Department of Health at the following points:

And then a list of classes is given, covering the whole of a page:

Positions in the following classes of skilled and unskilled labour and domestic service.

[Mr. Meighen.]

I will not weary the House with reading them all; but the House will see, as I raise the paper, that the classes of positions cover the first entire page. Then following is another page with classes of positions exempted from the Civil Service Act, and then there is about one-third of a page more. So I was emphatically correct when I said that the vast number of exemptions were made in June of last year, and if not made eagerly, were made at least with remarkable promptness upon receipt of the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission.

I call attention in this connection as well to the fact that the recommendation upon which the government acted lacks the signature of the chairman of the commission, and hon. members of both sides of this House, who have known the chairman of that commission for many years, who have had to do with him, men of all parties and of all persuasions, know that the chairman of the Civil Service Commission is a man

9 p.m. of high status and authority in this country, a man who has performed his duty with absolute fidelity and undoubted capacity. Hon. gentlemen in this connection may recall that when the government of 1921, of which I was the head, suggested a committee, the object being to secure authority in the commission, where it thought wise, to rid itself of appointments, even then apprehension was felt, and either the chairman of that commission gave a statement to the press or his opinion was announced in the press in opposition to the course which the government contemplated pursuing. Thus it was indicated that Dr. Roche at that time, just as to-day, guards jealously the integrity of the act, and in guarding jealously that integrity, he is no respecter of political parties.

Under the law of 1921, all those positions have been exempted, as recommended, and the Prime Minister's argument is this: "Why, if it was wrong to put those in, it may have been wrong to put others in." Well if it was wrong to put others in, there is a way to get them out. If the government is to be allowed to take out all it wishes, then there is no more Civil Service Act. If the commission believes it to be in the public interest to do this, it can recommend so under that act. No, this, however, is not the purpose of the government. The purpose of the government is to restore to those who are pressing them at this hour the control which that law took from them in the interest of the Civil Service and of this country. Consequently, because I believe the amendments of 1921 are ample,