

"MERIT" IN ALBERTA.

Public service administration was the subject of debate in the Alberta legislature during the recent session. The following from the House records outlines the opinions of the parties therein:

Mr. Ewing moved, seconded by Mr. Kemmis:

That in the opinion of this House the abolition of political patronage is in the interest of the people, and that all appointments to the public service and all promotions therein should be placed under the control of an independent Public Service Commission.

A debate followed.

Hon. Mr. Sifton moved the following amendment, which was seconded by the Hon. Mr. Mitchell:

That all the words after "House" be struck out and the following inserted:

Appointments and promotions in the Civil Service of the Province of Alberta should continue to be based solely upon qualification and merit, and permanently maintained independent of political party influences.

And this House further recommends to the Government that a standardization and classification of Civil Service be made with a provision for deduction of pay for the purpose of forming a retiring allowance.

The debate continued:

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Stanley, the following amendment to the amendment:

That in the opinion of this House, the abolition of political patronage in both Provincial and Federal affairs is in the interest of the people and that appointments to the Public Service and promotions therein, should be placed under the control of Independent Public Service Commissioners.

A debate followed.

And Mr. Smith's amendment to the amendment being put, Mr. Speaker

declared "the Noes have it," and the names being called for were taken as follows:

(Yeas, 13; nays, 23.)

The amendment to the amendment was therefore lost.

The amendment of the Hon. Mr. Sifton being put, Mr. Speaker declared "the Ayes have it," and the names being called for were taken as follows:

(Yeas, 24; nays, 12.)

The amendment was therefore carried.

The motion as amended being again put, Mr. Speaker declared "the Ayes have it," and the names being called for were taken as follows:

(Yeas, 24; nays, 12.)

The motion as amended was therefore carried.

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE IN FRANCE.

Postmaster General Burleson has received from Marcus H. Bunn, United States postal agent in France, a report upon the work of establishing there a postal agency for the benefit of the members of their expeditionary force. The agency has been in operation for several weeks with a full corps of assistants, so that soldiers' mail is now handled without interruption.

Besides the base post office, to which all mail is sent direct, branches for soldiers have been established in Paris, at one of the important seaports, and where the soldiers are in training.

The postal service with the Army consists of picked men from the Railway Mail Service and the money order and registry divisions of city post offices. The postal uniform is an olive drab with the letters "U.S." on either side of the throat on the collar and with the brassard 2½ inches wide, with the red letters "P.S." on the left arm.

All the elaborate postal equipment which Postmaster General Burleson directed should go to France has been installed and the employees have been assigned to their various posts, with the result that full postal facilities are now at the disposal of their soldiers in France.

Save your newspapers.