

do say this: I regret very, very deeply that the members of the House of Commons have not been strong enough to grapple with this matter; that they have feared the type of newspaper man who, being a mere theorist without any practical knowledge whatever, sits in his little den and writes an article which, if he had spoken it to you on the street, you would have treated with contempt. But such is the strange constitution of the great majority of minds that if we see anything in a paper we place a great deal more credence in it, put more faith in it, listen to it, and are sometimes guided by it, even against our own better personal opinion and judgment, than if we heard it spoken by some man. We would treat it with a snap of the finger and say, "Pooh, nonsense!" if it were said to us, and yet in cold type it has an effect. Now, those articles that have appeared from time to time in the newspapers, telling of the wonderful work the Civil Service Commission has done for Canada, have scared the members of the House of Commons. They know by practical experience that there has not been the efficiency that was looked for. They know, when they examine the accounts of the Auditor General, that instead of greater economy there has been an enormous increase of expenditure. Why, honourable gentlemen, if all the faults of the old system that we read about were real, and all those faults were corrected by the new methods; if all the inefficiency was wiped out, and all things that were wrong were made right, yet the actual cost to the country of this present Civil Service Commission would be greater than the gain effected by those reforms. On the contrary, however, instead of reforms, instead of economy and efficiency in the Public Service, I say that the Public Service was never in a more unsettled and restless condition than it is to-day—I am speaking of the Inside Service.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Disorganized.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: With these Boards of Hearing men never know where their salaries are. There is constant unrest, and if we are going to have real efficiency the whole system must be changed. I may be wrong, but as I understand the matter the Government has left it largely to the control of a Minister who, whatever his qualifications may have been, time, with its all-effacing fingers, has effaced those qualities that made this Minister valuable, and he is no longer so; and it is an unfortunate thing both for the Government and for Canada if

Hon. Mr. FOWLER.

it be true that this Minister whom I have in mind is the master with regard to the Civil Service and has been allowed to have his way.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Honourable gentlemen, really the honourable member for Kings and Albert is asking too much altogether from one man. Here was a man getting \$3,600 a year, but he had to work to get all those increases, and, with his perseverance and his industry, see how he had to work to get that Board of Hearing together, how he had to convince those members. I would like to see any man in ordinary private life who could get increases from \$3,600 to over \$8,000 a year just through his obstinacy, through his button-holing those who might give him an increase. That man had a busy year, if he never did a stroke of work for the Government, working to get those increases.

An Hon. SENATOR: Who is this man?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Ask the member for Kings and Albert.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN:: Who is the man?

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I will go this far, and say that this man is a well-known official. He gets this pay; he is a member of the Board of Hearing, and he also is the Secretary of a Commission that is paid by the Government.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill. Hon. John Webster in the chair.

On section 1—Act not to apply to employees on railways or ships; positions, how excluded from operation of Act:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I want to draw the attention of the honourable leader of the Government to certain things in this Bill. He will see that the first section begins by saying that section 38A of the Civil Service Act, 1918, is repealed. On turning to the Civil Service Act of 1918, there is no section 38A at all; there is only section 38. There is added in chapter 10 of the statutes of 1919 a section 38A, which is being repealed. Then section 2 of the Bill reads:

Section 39 of the said Act, as amended by the said chapter 10, is repealed.

If he looks at chapter 10 of the statutes of 1919 he will not be able to find any refer-