

radical reform in the Civil Service, making entry to the Inside Service by competitive examination and appointing an independent non-partizan Commission whose control over the Inside Service was practically absolute and they evidenced their good faith by naming to that Commission Professor Shortt who was in no way connected with politics or the Liberal Party, and Mr. Larochelle who had They appointed as the Secretary Mr. Wm. Foran who is well known to be a Conservative. Provision was made in the act to bring in the Outside Service as justified. One clause provided for appointment of technical or special officers on approval of the Commission, but without competition. This was very sparingly used under the Laurier Government.

In 1911 elections Sir Robert Borden inserted in his program a clause for further Civil Service Reform. He came into power and fulfilled this pledge for a non-partizan Civil Service by dismissing or causing the resignation of 13,466 Civil servants and the appointment in their place of 25,613 partizans, many of them in direct defiance of the provisions of the Law or by a stretch of the clause above referred to. During the six years, from 1911 to 1917, practically no Liberal was appointed and nearly all the appointees were partizan active Conservatives. No improvement in the law was attempted.

It was hoped that Union Government would improve on this. So far there is no indication of change. It is true, some old time Liberals have been appointed, but only those who supported Union Government and are, therefore, just as much partizan Union Government as Conservatives under a Conservative regime or Liberals under a Liberal regime. Before the boast that the Service of the State is not used to reward supporters of the Government we must see some sound, capable and efficient straight Liberal in the last election appointed to some position in which he can do good work. No one asks for any other appointment. The very new composition of the Civil Service Commission shows no desire to make it non-partizan. Dr. Roche, the Chairman, is a good man, one of the best in the late Government, but still a straight strong Party man and one who never showed any great interest in Civil Service Reform. Mr. Jamieson, ex-Conservative Member of Parliament, is in the same class. Neither in any way qualified as is Prof. Shortt who has been removed to make place for them. When we find the appointments to the Civil Service Commission itself purely political and partizan, how can we expect the Commission itself to be other and how can we expect the Government to do other than continue its partizan appointments.

A plea has been put forward that legislation is needed to bring the Outside Service under the Act of 1908 and under control of the Commission. That is not so. Under a clause in the Act by recommendation of the Commission and order in Council based on it, any part of the outside service may be brought under the Act. For instance, the Customs and Post Offices in all cities and towns could be brought in at once. Inland Revenue officers are in the same category. For appointments in local post offices there would be difficulty in having competitive examination but appointments could be

made on recommendation of the Commission instead of political supporters as was the case of such a purely political appointment as that of Mr. Weldon to the position of Collector of Customs of Montreal. This is a case quite out of the ordinary departmental appointment. It is one of the big plums of the Civil Service. It is notorious, and well known in Montreal that Mr. Weldon withdrew from St. George-St. Lawrence Division to let Mr. C. C. Ballantyne have a free field on condition that he would get this office. He has it. The fact that for months the office has been managed by an employee of the Department in an efficient manner shows that promotion in the Service was feasible, and Mr. Reid's emphatic declaration on the floor of Parliament on April 20th, 1917, that he was keeping it for a returned soldier shows there was no excuse for this purely party nomination. Mr. Reid said: **"My understanding of the Order in Council is that if a returned soldier is entitled to a position as an officer of Customs at a salary of \$200, he is entitled to a position in the City of Montreal at \$4,500. I have, therefore, taken the same position in respect to this office as I have in respect to the other offices in Canada now vacant and which I am holding. I have sent men from other offices to fill positions temporarily until I can get men who have served at the front and who I believe could fill the position."**

Following is extract from the Order in Council referred to: **"In making all appointments to the Civil Service, whether in the Inside or in the Outside Service, preference shall be given to those candidates who have served overseas in His Majesty's Forces during the present war, and who have been honourably discharged therefrom, especially to those who through disability occasioned by active military services are unable to fill their previous occupations.**

Heads of Departments, Deputy Heads of Departments and the Civil Service Commission shall, within their respective jurisdictions over appointments, be responsible for establishing systematic methods for ensuring that such preference is given."

Mr. Reid's language above quoted was a promise that that office should go to a returned soldier. Mr. Weldon's appointment is not only a breach of faith as to the abolition of patronage but a further breach of faith to the returned soldiers, a commentary on the value of the promises held out before and during the last election to secure the votes of the "Boys at the Front."

Mr. Reid is an old member of the Conservative Government now in the Union Government, and such is his conduct and responsibility for it. Mr. Calder is a new member of the Union Government who has expressed himself as follows: **"A Union Government means better administration, more energy and less waste. I believe it will cut the very heart out of the patronage evil in Canada and place the Civil Service throughout the Dominion on a higher plane. Unless these things are done I will not stay in a Union Government. It has been the curse of our public**