

sure that if the minister had taken my advice and remained here he would not have felt quite as comfortable as he does now. But the hon. gentleman, instead of taking my advice, took part in the election in North and South Brant, and the result was that he came back with two black eyes. If he had not gone I do not know what the result would have been, but probably it would have been no worse than it was. However, it was quite proper for the minister to go and take part in this election, but I think that he should not have criticised me for doing the very same thing that he himself did.

I desire, in the first place, to refer to the Civil Service Commission report in connection with the Department of Customs, and I propose to read from page 29 :

This is one of the three departments whose outside service is recognized by the Civil Service Act. The salaries of officers in the outside service are duly scheduled, but, unlike the other two departments (Inland Revenue and Post Office), no annual increments have been given. The chief positions in the outside service of this department are political appointments. Every collector of customs has been appointed from the ranks of the party in power at the moment. Many of the inspectors are in a similar position, and, under a clause in the Civil Service Act waiving the examination of persons appointed to positions requiring special and technical qualifications, almost all the appraisers in the outside service of this department have been appointed without undergoing the civil service examination. By no chance can an officer of the Customs Department (outside service) be removed from one point to another. If a vacancy occurs in a collectorship at any one point, no capable officer can be sent to fill the position from any other point. In the service of this department there are many anomalies and incongruities. In order to avoid the necessity of examinations a new class has been created under the name of 'examining officers,' a class not found in the schedule to the Civil Service Act. In Montreal no officer is graded as 'cashier'; in Toronto there is a cashier. At the last session of parliament the Minister of Customs obtained a grant of \$100,000 which has been distributed in amounts of \$100 or \$150 to officers within the limits of salaries laid down by the Civil Service Act. No officer at the apparent maximum of his class participated in the bounty. The salaries in the outside service seem to have been graded by the amount of revenue received.

Mr. Speaker, I desire to call special attention to a few lines in the paragraph which I have read. I have, perhaps, as intimate a knowledge of the Minister of Customs as any gentleman in the House. We have been life-long fellow citizens and life-long personal friends, and I have had a good opportunity of knowing thoroughly the character and standing of my hon. friend. I may say that in so far as I speak personally of the hon. gentleman I esteem him as a man of very high qualities, a man of personal honour and a man

whom it is perfectly safe to entrust with the funds of the country.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. The hon. gentleman who says 'hear, hear' had better wait for awhile. It is very nice to have such an appreciative auditor. I was saying in regard to the Minister of Customs that he was a man to whom you might hand a roll of bills without counting them, ask him for them next morning and get them all back. I am ready to say that with regard to the Minister of Customs. But after having said that, I want to say that although this civil service report has been depreciated very much by the government, the commissioners have succeeded, in a very few lines, in putting their finger on the soft spot of the administration of the minister. The reference to this is contained in about three lines, which I will especially call to his attention :

The chief positions in the outside service of this department are political appointments. Every collector of customs has been appointed from the ranks of the party in power at the moment.

After having given the minister the character I have I may be permitted to say that I consider the Civil Service Commission, in these three lines, have hit upon the soft spot in the administration of the Minister of Customs, that he is a partisan there is no doubt and that his office has been run on the basis of partisanship there can be no doubt. The Civil Service Commissioners when they say that these appointments have been made because of party exigencies rather than for reasons of fitness and efficiency, have put their finger on the very spot where the minister falls down.

Mr. JOHNSTON. The soft spot.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. If he wanted a very soft spot to light on I think he would light on you. It is stated that every collector of customs has been appointed from the ranks of the party in power at the moment, and under these circumstances it is not likely the best results can be attained. The Minister of Customs should take to heart the criticism of his department by the Civil Service Commission which says it is a political department and that in it party exigencies and party rewards are considered before the efficiency of the service. That is a serious charge and it shows that when party comes in conflict with duty, party will win out and duty go to the wall.

Mr. TALBOT. Has the hon. gentleman any instances to give?

Mr. COCKSHUTT. You will get plenty of instances before I am finished. The report of the Civil Service Commission indicates that the Minister of Customs has fallen far short of what might be expected of him.