

being introduced into Canada. It is perfectly true, and I had very bitter experience of it when I was a member of the Mackenzie administration, that when a new government comes into office, and finds all the superior offices occupied by men of strong partisan leanings, that the government conducts its affairs at a very great disadvantage, so great that I am not surprised that a great many desire that the chief officers should be removed. Nevertheless, weighing the advantages and disadvantages together, I beg to state that I should be very sorry indeed to see the permanent heads of the departments removed on the occasion of a change of ministry. There are certain officers, of course, such as private secretary, which must of necessity be changed when the government is changed, and it is desirable also that the government should have power to bring in officers with special qualifications; but with that reservation I deprecate any attempt at introducing the United States spoils system. The English system, with all its defects, and it has some, has worked well, and is being substantially introduced into the United States. That is a point I think on which all parties can agree. I would go a little further than some of my hon. friends in endeavouring to remove the Civil Service from all connection with politics. I have long thought that, as in the case of judges, it would be better for them and for us if the civil servants had no votes and were entirely outside the political arena; but that is a matter of personal opinion, and it is not brought up under the present Bill. But the other point I say the House may thoroughly rely upon, that is, that if you throw open the Civil Service to competition in the first stages, you will in a very short time purge the Civil Service from political influences that hon. gentlemen have referred to, to a very great extent and you would insure a very superior class to those that have been brought in by their political pull rather than on their merits.

Hon. Mr. KERR—I should not have said a word, except to deprecate and express my regret that the names of many of our most able and most honourable and impartial judges have been mentioned here to-day

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

in the course of this discussion on account of their being charged with being political appointments. I have been a member of the bar for over 45 years in the province, and during that time it has been my privilege to be constantly in daily contact, I might say, appearing before the judges and others who have occupied such positions, and whatever government has appointed them, or whatever may have been their affiliation before their appointment I can say that I have yet to learn of a single instance of any judge who has had the privilege of sitting upon the bench in the high courts of justice in the province of Ontario whose actions have been promoted, prompted or suggested by political consideration. We have been singularly fortunate in the province, by whomsoever the appointments have been made, in having men appointed who were appointed by reason of the signal ability they displayed at the bar, and their high position, and the confidence they enjoyed not only of the members of the bar, but also the public, and I should be very sorry if through any observation which has been made here, in the slightest degree the honour of the bench in the province of Ontario should be attacked. I do not know of a single instance, although men have been appointed who have occupied prominent positions in political fields before their appointment from the days of Sir John Robinson down—I have been a member of the bar that long—in which any one of those men has acted in such a way as would justify the imputation that they had ever been politicians or that they had ever been members of any political party whatever. I think it is fair and right that this statement should be made. As to the question of appointment of judges, so long as appointments are made with a single eye to the public service, and with due regard to the qualifications which are essential to hold the position on such a bench as that is, I think it is a matter utterly immaterial to consider for one moment whether these gentlemen have or have not at any time, either in the present or in the past been connected with any political party. I think the one thing to consider is the selection of men who will discharge their duties impartially and to