

and wise administration of public affairs rests upon the members of a civil service who must feel that the position they occupy is one of respectability and of high character, and that they are bound to give the faithful discharge of their duties. No Government, however wise; no Government, however able; no Government, however honest, can faithfully discharge their duties to the people, unless throughout this widely extended Dominion they maintain a civil service of high character and high attainments. Sir, the first element of that independence of character, the first element of that faithful performance of duty, centres upon the fixity of the tenure of their office. Introduce and carry out this wretched system of spoils of office, which this Government has introduced for the first time in the history of Canada—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes. Introduce this system of spoils and your civil service is at once demoralized. I say without fear of contradiction from any person who searches the records of this country, that it is for the first time in our history, that a Government has shown that they are prepared to drive out of office men of the highest character, men in the very prime of life, men whose experience qualify them to perform their duties in a faithful and fearless manner, and to bring into the public service, men without experience, without character, without standing, and without any qualifications to discharge their duties. Why, Sir, what have we seen in the Interior Department. I do not intend to take up the time of the House at any length on the introduction of this Bill, but I ask you to look at the Interior Department, and what do you find? Why, Sir, you find men who were not brought into the department by the Conservative party, but by the Liberal party, men whom the Liberal party sustained and upheld in office in consequence of their great ability, and who were maintained in office by the Conservative party, you find these men of vast experience driven out of office, in order to make room for men, whose only attempt at the discharge of public duty so discredited them, that they were driven out of the position which they held. I say that, in my judgment, a greater outrage was never perpetrated in this country, and never could be perpetrated, than the disgraceful manner in which the present Government have subordinated one of the most important departments, that of the Interior, to the interests and to the necessities of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) who now presides there. Does any person doubt that the gentleman who was sent by the Government of Manitoba to perform the important duties of representing that province at the World's Fair, and who so discredited himself as to bring a torrent of indignation about his ears and about the ears of the Govern-

ment that appointed him, because of the scandalous manner in which he mismanaged the duties which he had undertaken to perform—does any person doubt that, for the purpose of securing the aid of that gentleman in obtaining an election by acclamation, the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) has brought him here, thus discredited, without any of the qualifications necessary for the discharge of his duty? He has dragged even the Crown in the dust by driving out of the office he was entitled to hold a man of the highest position, who had discharged the duties of that office with such signal ability as to command and obtain the confidence of the Governments of both of the great parties in this country. I say to the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) that he has not introduced his Bill a moment too soon. He proposes to transfer the powers of the Crown to a commission, whether to enable them to appoint and dismiss, I did not quite gather. That may have been owing to my not having had the advantage of hearing the hon. gentleman when he introduced his Bill. But if it is a Bill that will protect the civil service of this country from such outrages as those to which they have been subjected since this Government came into power—not in one department only, but in a great many departments—if it is a Bill of that character, it will be hailed with great satisfaction by the people of this country, whose only hope of having the duties of the civil service ably and efficiently performed is that their independence of character shall be guarded and their rights respected by the Government and the Parliament of this country. When this Bill reaches a more advanced stage, I will deal with its provisions at greater length; but when I felt the outrageous manner in which the civil service had been tampered with, I could not forbear expressing the indignation felt throughout this country by every intelligent and independent man who realizes how that service has been tampered with, and the baneful and fatal results that must follow to the best interests of the country.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). My hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) had not consulted me before introducing his Bill; but I have no hesitation at all in saying at once that if the Bill of my hon. friend has for its object and will have the effect to remove some of the temptations which beset public men in office, it shall have my most cordial support. My hon. friend referred a moment ago to one of the Ministers of the Crown who had said that he had to keep guard over the treasury to prevent it being plundered by political adventurers. It is a pity for Canada that we have not many more men of that kind. It is a pity we had not a man of the stamp of Alexander Mac-