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FROM HANSARD.

Parliamentary Sayings of Interest to Civil Servants.

A glance through recent issues of the official report of debates in the House of Commons shows that the references to matters of special interest to the Civil Service are many and interesting.

Question of Promotion.

Mr. Speaker's recommendation to appoint Mr. Arthur Beaudesne, K. C., to the position of Clerk Assistant of the House to succeed the late J. B. A. Laplante, came up for ratification on the 17th February. Hon. Charles Marcell, of Bonaventure, former Speaker, while raising no objection to the appointment, expressed regret that some officer of the House had not been promoted to the place. Sir Robert Borden pointed out that this was a promotion within the Civil Service, Mr. Beaudesne having been an official of the Department of Justice.

Allowance for Dependents.

On the same occasion, and closely connected with the foregoing, was a request by Hon. Mr. Marcell that some allowance be made the widow of the late Mr. Laplante beyond the allowance of two months' salary which he understood was to be made. The Prime Minister said the matter had not been under his consideration, but that he would bring it to the attention of the sub-committee of Council having charge of such matters.

Mr. Laplante, it will be remembered, was one of the victims of the Parliament Buildings fire. His was not a case of a civil servant meeting

death in the ordinary way, but a case of one killed while on duty.

The Canker of Patronage.

On the same day, in the course of a speech on the Budget which has attracted universal attention, Sir George Foster made a noteworthy reference to the patronage evil. The immediate reference was to public works and the purchase of supplies, but the effect upon the Civil Service was not overlooked. Sir George Foster said:

"Now, as to patronage, I have been thirty-four years in public life; I have been a pretty close student of political parties and political history in this country, and I have simply this to say—I give it as my individual opinion—I have long felt it and I feel it now—that in the whole course of my political life I cannot point to a single instance where political patronage ever helped the status of the bench, ever helped the status of the Civil Service, ever helped in the economy of their administration the status of public administrators, no matter what functions they performed, never helped a member of Parliament in reality, never helped a Government in reality; it almost always causes the dry rot and disintegration that break up government after government and party after party, and I wish now, in the white heat and light of this great contest and struggle and the self-sac-