

sion itself, there were certain classes of appointments which would be better not under the purview and control of the commission, which were not of sufficient consequence, attached to which the salaries were not large enough, in respect to which the duties were not important enough to warrant the care that the commission necessarily takes under the law in the matter of appointments, to warrant the machinery that the commission erected to take care of them. As a consequence a committee sat and heard evidence for some time, and on its recommendation an amendment was put through, which I have before me, chapter 22 of the statutes of that year, under which it was provided that the commission may, with the approval of the Governor in Council, exclude such position or positions, in whole or in part, from the operation of the act, as in the opinion of the commission could not practically in the public interest be filled under the Civil Service Act. There was another amendment put through of very little consequence, but this important amendment was recommended by the committee and became law, and thereafter where, after the experience the commission would have, the commission itself felt there was any class of appointment, or single appointment, of a character that could be filled by the government, and not by the commission, without any fundamental return to patronage, where in a word they deemed on account of the rather cumbersome machinery they had to apply, there was not sufficient cause for its application, they may recommend to the Governor in Council exemption and if the Governor in Council approves, that particular position or class of positions becomes exempt.

To show that the government of the day did not contemplate any invasion of the Civil Service Act, let me say we were in power for eight or nine months after that law was passed, and I am not sure that any recommendations were ever made to the government, or any order in council passed exempting positions from the operation of that law. I am not saying there were none made. It is possible there were, but if so they were very few; they were indeed negligible. But after hon. gentlemen opposite came into power, in the month of June of this year a recommendation came from the Civil Service Commission, quite within its power—and for the moment I do not criticize it; it is not necessary to criticize it here—a very sweeping recommendation which, though in the main it did apply to minor offices, did cover a tremendous area of appointments a very wide field. I do not say it covered ten thousand. The Prime Minister does not

say how many it covered. I doubt if there is a member of the government who can say, but if it covered ten thousand I do not know what was wrong with the statement of the principal of Upper Canada College. He estimated the numbers at that figure. Evidently such is his opinion; I do not know. At all events the recommendation was sweeping. The recommendation, I need scarcely tell the House, was eagerly accepted.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I beg my hon. friend's pardon, it was not eagerly accepted. My purpose in rising was to answer my hon. friend in the matter of Principal Grant's statement. There was no exception taken on the part of the government to the figures that Principal Grant gave. The exception I took to his statement was that Principal Grant said that these exemptions were brought from under the act at the instance of the government, whereas it was at the instance of the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I know the recommendation was from them, and I have no reason to say—I have never suggested to anyone myself—that it was at the instance of the government, and I have no objection to the government appointing a commission to find out at whose instance it was. I add that I will attend such a commission with considerable interest and curiosity as well. A large area was made exempt, a very large number of classes of positions. From that day forward the government became entitled to make those appointments. The Prime Minister says the government was not eager to accept this duty at all. Well, if not, the government has suddenly changed its opinion since June, 1922, if the Prime Minister's words to-night represent the concerted opinion of his administration. How could anyone listen to his speech this afternoon and come to any other conclusion than that the government very eagerly accepted the recommendation of the commission for the exemption of large classes from that act.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The recommendation was made in June and it was accepted in December. I do not call that eager.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Accepted in December?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is the hon. gentleman sure of that?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have the order in council here.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I sent for the order in council last midsummer, and I do not remember exactly what the date was. I