

Tariff Board—Mr. Bennett

these problems which will be before the board, I think possibly if they hold office for ten, eleven and twelve years respectively it might be better.

I have made these observations because other attacks also have been made not only as to the salaries but it has been suggested that we are endeavouring to do something to perpetuate a system on the Liberal party. The attitude of the Liberal party towards these problems was evidenced by its Advisory Board on Tariff and Taxation, and I point out once more that that board could only come into existence, except by the inferred powers of government, by virtue of some statute that gives authority to the executive to appoint it. And when a former Prime Minister says that the authority consisted in estimates, we have fallen to a pretty low level of argument in debate. For the payment of money never constituted the reason for the creation of a body. By-laws have been set aside, orders in council have vanished in the courts of law, because there was not behind them the sanction of any law or authority of the legislative body itself.

Let us compare this bill with the last report made by the late advisory board. I refer to Mr. Moore's report of 1928-1929. In that report there appears the following statement:

During the fiscal year now ending, the board has spent thirty days in public sittings, devoted to the initiation or furtherance of inquiry in forty-one references. In the period under report, hearings or references were as follows:

First hearings..	26
Second hearings..	17
Third or further hearings..	4
Total..	47

Major subjects of investigation during the past year were: cement, paints and varnishes, aluminum and aluminum products, copper rods, sewing machines, coal and coke, printed matter and iron and steel.

Is there in this chamber this afternoon any member who will rise in this place and say that he has ever found in the reports of that board a single finding of fact? Name one—just one. But here you will find, in this report from which I have just quoted, the following exceedingly interesting words:

The board has continued during the past twelve months its policy of visiting plants, and meeting at the scene of their labours many of those whose problems have been brought, directly or indirectly, to its notice. These visits have been of the greatest value, not alone in adding to the store of information available to the board and its investigators, but in establishing between the board and scores of industries an intimate understanding that has been mutually beneficial.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Could anything be more ingenuous, more naive than that—an intimate understanding between these feudal lords and the Advisory Board on Tariff and Taxation? An intimate understanding between the chairman, getting ready for an election, and the taxpayers of Canada. An intimate understanding between the chairman of the board and the special interests about which my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan) spoke. This intimate understanding resulted at least in the chairman of the board being a candidate in an election and being now a member of this house. And in the constituency which he contested there is one of the largest industries in Canada. An "intimate understanding" between the "special interests" and the chairman of the board!

Then there came the delightful threat of the leader of the opposition when he said, "Well, pass it if you like; but I give notice that we are going to get rid of them anyway when we come in." That statement, however, he modified with an "if"; and I was rather grateful to him for that proviso, if only for the sake of his own reputation, because by adding the "if" he made possible at least the inference that if these men measure up to expectations they would not be disturbed in their office. Let me assure the house that if they do not measure up to their obligations as I see them we shall not have to wait for a change of government to see them replaced. I can assure the house of that.

This bill is really an effort on the part of the government, to the best of its ability and with the aid of parliament, to enable facts to be ascertained by a tribunal uninfluenced by the administration of the day. Will it succeed? If it fails, it will not be because we do not give it a chance; if it fails it will not be because we have not done everything in our power to ensure its success. I was amazed when I saw some hon. gentlemen vote for an amendment which said in effect, "The only trouble with your bill is that there is not enough politics in it"—for that was what it meant. The second reading of a bill means but one thing, that we approve of the principle of the measure. The details may be discussed and possibly amended in committee, because there is no hard and fast rule that precludes the acceptance of any suggestion which would improve the bill as proposed. But the bill which is submitted to the house embodies the ripe experience of other countries in various parts of the world. For instance, when I was in England I thought I would find out how the Indian people dealt