

his time, with the exception of his monthly visits to the department to draw his cheque.

I am convinced, Sir, that none amongst us who have private business to look after would wish to have such a system perpetuated. So far as I am concerned, nothing in the world could induce me to connive at such a state of affairs.

To my mind, it behooves the government to bring on a change in the administration of the country. With this system of independent commissioners, the representatives of the people are but honourable messengers in touch with a receiving and transmitting instrument, which is the Cabinet, and which in turn is powerless and has but to transmit requests and recommend the disposal of public funds at random to unchecked officials which are uncontrollable under the law. I urged before the electors of my county, a return to responsible government, and, I urge it again to-night. In my county I was listened to and understood; I hope to be equally understood here and that my request will be given due consideration. I will admit that a commission may at times be necessary, but only when it is entirely under the jurisdiction of parliament and not when it creates a system of administration obliging the representatives of the people to vote public money blindly. For my part, I refuse to be dragged into the current, dead fish only are swept away by the current and I am not one of them. I protest against my colleagues being considered as parliamentary pedlars promenading through the country, and held responsible for other people's doings.

I do not wish, Mr. Speaker, to abuse the patience of the House, but I think I have sufficiently stated in a few words what I think of these independent commissioners and so long as you have not acceded to the request made last year, to have a parliamentary commission verify the charges which I brought forward and that cannot be contradicted, I shall maintain the same stand. It gives me pleasure, this evening, to support the resolution of my hon. friend, the member for Quebec South (Mr. Power), even though the resolution is somewhat of a sweeping nature, however, I believe in applying the hot iron to all evils.

Mr. SHAW moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Unless there is really a desire to have the debate go over I hope my hon. friend will find it possible to continue to-night.

[Mr. Deslauriers.]

Mr. SHAW: I would very gladly indeed accede to the wishes of the Prime Minister, but it is a matter of some importance and I see no objection to the debate going over unless there is some special reason for continuing the discussion to-night.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We have no objection to having the debate adjourned, but I would like to point out to the hon. gentleman that there is a great demand for economy and the duration of the session is one of the factors in that regard. If we can expedite business we are ready to go on. However, we will not insist if hon. gentlemen opposite wish the debate adjourned.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We are now half an hour past the regulation hour so long promised by the government before it came into power.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Very well.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

Monday, February 19, 1923.

The House met at three o'clock.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance), moved:

That the name of Mr. Archambault be substituted for that of Mr. Laflamme on the select standing committee on Privileges and Elections.

That the name of Mr. Bouchard be substituted for that of Mr. Provost on the select standing committee on Agriculture and Colonization.

That the name of Mr. Michaud be substituted for that of Mr. Robichaud on the select standing committee on Forests, Waterways and Water-powers.

That the name of Mr. Robichaud be substituted for that of Mr. Michaud on the select standing committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: By unanimous consent.

Motion agreed to.

RESTAURANT OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance), moved:

That Messieurs Anderson, Bancroft, Gordon, Putnam, Macdonald (Pictou), Rinfret, Papineau, Wallace and Wilson be appointed to assist His Honour the Speaker in the direction of the Restaurant, as far as the interests of the Commons are concerned, and to act as members of a Joint Committee of both Houses on the Restaurant, and that a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their Honours therewith.

Mr. SPEAKER: By unanimous consent.

Motion agreed to.