

An hon. MEMBER: That is a long time away.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No, it is not.

Mr. MANION: The people gave their verdict at the last election.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I give my hon. friends credit for having put it over. There is no objection to that at all. But now that my hon. friends have put it over and the people are taking their medicine, it will come my hon. friends' turn to sit in opposition and we shall be back where we belong. All I am complaining about is this: that inasmuch as a tariff board will have to deal more with policies than with facts, no government should be handicapped by the advice of a group of men who do not believe in the policies on which that administration was elected. That is my chief complaint and that is why I am going to vote for the amendment.

Amendment (Mr. Hanbury) negatived: Yeas, 44; nays, 68.

Mr. GRAY: Subsection 7 of section 3 of the bill reads:

No member shall be eligible to be a candidate for election to the House of Commons of Canada until after the expiration of two years from the date when he ceased to be a member of the board.

I propose, at the conclusion of my remarks, to move an amendment to this subsection. I have never been able to see the reason for inserting this subsection in the bill, and after listening to the Prime Minister and other speakers on the opposite side of the house who have pictured to the chamber the high calibre of the men they propose to appoint to this board, it is all the more difficult for one to see any reason whatever for introducing into our legislation a subsection of this nature. The Prime Minister has promised to appoint men of high calibre to this board and speakers on the opposite side of the house have stated that one of their reasons for making the term of office ten years is that men of that type will not accept such positions unless they are assured a term of office commensurate with their sphere in life. It is practically, according to the Prime Minister, men of the calibre of judges who are to be appointed to this board. These men will be asked to serve their country and then, should they see fit to resign or when their term of ten years is ended, they are to be placed on the Indian list. That is exactly what this means.

I wonder if there is any precedent for a clause of this kind. I have searched rather carefully; I have studied the constitution of other boards, and I do not find such a provision in connection with the Board of Railway Commissioners, the Pension Appeal Board, the Farm Loan Board, or, in fact, anywhere except in two particulars which I am going to cite. In the Dominion Elections Act, being chapter 53 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, I find under section 39 those who are disqualified as candidates for election. That is, I presume, exactly where we are going to class the members of the tariff board. I wish to call attention to paragraph (f) of section 39, dealing with men of exactly this type that we are appointing to the tariff commission. Paragraph (f) reads:

Every person accepting or holding any office, commission or employment, permanent or temporary, in the service of the government of Canada at the nomination of the crown or at the nomination of any of the officers of the government of Canada, to which any salary, fee, wages, allowance, emolument or profit of any kind is attached—during the time he is so holding any such office, commission or employment.

What I wish to emphasize is the fact that he is disqualified only during the time he is so holding such office. Again under paragraph (e) we have certain other public officers, as follows:

Every person holding the office of sheriff, registrar of deeds, clerk of the peace or county crown attorney—during the time he is holding such office.

Then paragraph (d) refers to members of legislatures as follows:

Every person who is a member of the legislature of any province—during the time he is such member.

And so on. I could read a number of similar paragraphs, each one limiting the disqualification to the time the person is holding such office. But there are two paragraphs which prescribe disqualification for election for a period of years and it is in this class of disqualified persons that the Prime Minister puts the members of the tariff board whom he has placed upon such a high pinnacle of distinction. These are paragraphs (a) and (b). Paragraph (a) starts with those who are guilty of corrupt practices. I am not going to read the whole paragraph, because hon. members are all familiar with it, but at the conclusion it specifies that a person who is found guilty of corrupt practices is disqualified:

During the period of seven years next after the date of his being so found, convicted, ordered or found guilty.