

stages rather than to look after it later on. Epidemics are started because cases are not attended to as they should be at the first. There should be free medical attendance for those who wish to take advantage of it. At the present time all the machinery for carrying out a system of free medical attendance is in existence. You know, Mr. Speaker, that the Government has medical officers and has hospitals to look after the returned soldiers who require medical attendance. These men are supplied with medical attendance, drugs, medicines and so on.

In due time, and I hope in the not far distant future, the soldiers will be discharged from the hospitals, and there will be no further work for those institutions or for the medical men who are looking after them. Why not continue those hospitals and those medical men in the service of the country, and give free medical attendance to the people who want to take advantage of it? I hope that the new Department of Public Health will consider that question, because I believe, and am convinced, that it is very important.

Now as to the high cost of living. I got a letter from my wife yesterday, and she said: "I hope you people down there in Ottawa will try and do something to bring down the cost of living. That is about the most important business that you can think about." That is the way all the women in this country feel at the present time. I do not see anything about this subject in the speech from the Throne, but I think some action is contemplated in the programme of the Government. Mr. Speaker, we must consider the women more than ever now under present conditions—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McQUARRIE: —and if they demand that the cost of living be brought down we shall have to comply with that demand. How it is going to be done I do not know, that is something that will have to be worked out.

As to the Civil Service Commission, I have listened with a good deal of interest to the criticism of that body, and I hope that patronage as in the old days will never be restored in Canada. Personally I do not wish to have anything to say about any of the appointments which are to be made in connection with the Civil Service. At the same time, however, I think that the Civil Service Commission can stand some remodelling, it is not working out very satisfactorily. I am not saying that with any desire to criticise any member of the Civil

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Service Board, I think they are trying to do their best, but the existing system needs improvement. It is all new, and the needed reforms will have to be worked out. My experience with the Civil Service Commission has been something like this: I have not heard anything from the commission since I have been a member, neither have I communicated with it, but a rather remarkable thing has happened in that connection, and that is what I want to call attention to. As a matter of fact a great many of the applicants for Civil Service positions from my constituency gave my name as one of their references. I do not know whether it was right or not for them to do so, but at any rate they did so, although not at my request. Now, the peculiar part of the proceeding is that never on one occasion have I had any reference to me from the Civil Service Commission as to any of these applications, and no appointment, so far as I know, has been made by the commission of any one from my constituency. We have good men in my constituency, just as other hon. gentlemen have in their constituencies, but they do not seem to have been recognized by the commission. Whether it is that their applications were refused and thrown out immediately the commission saw that a member of Parliament's name was given as one of the references, or not, I cannot say, but the fact remains that no reference was ever made by the commission to me. Neither am I aware whether any reference was made to any of the other gentlemen who were on the applications or not. I think it is a strange thing that before making appointments the Civil Service Commission should not communicate with all the references given on the applications. I think the Civil Service Commission will be all right if it is given time, but I do hope that patronage will not be returned to the members of Parliament.

With regard to immigration, we have to consider it as a problem—one of the greatest problems of demobilization. The hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton (Sir Sam Hughes) speaking on this subject, as reported on page 220 of Hansard said: "The first thing is to get population." Again, as reported on page 221 he said: "First of all get population, get people with money." I can hardly agree with the hon. gentleman that money should be the only qualification. I would say, get population, but get the right kind.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Hear, hear.

Mr. McQUARRIE: The hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton says, "Hear,