

knowledge of conditions, who knows the applicants and their qualifications for the work, is not consulted. Instead, the country is put to the expense of sending some person from Ottawa, over a distance of perhaps three or four hundred miles. This inspector goes out on the street, talks to this or that man inquiring as to the qualifications of the different applicants, and then returns to Ottawa and makes his report. We have no means of knowing whether or not that report is acted upon, but in any case we have a condition where the man who really makes the appointment is responsible to no one.

I think it has been the experience of nearly everyone that the people of this country want their members to be responsible for appointments made in their respective ridings. Possibly it is easier for us to say that we have nothing to do with it, but that it is done by a commission in Ottawa. That is an explanation to which the people do not take very readily, and it does not reflect much credit upon ourselves. Therefore, though we may be making trouble for ourselves, I think we should put this responsibility back where it belongs, on the members elected by the people to look after their affairs.

Miss MACPHAIL: I should like to ask the hon. member if these sitting members of the house have anything to do with the appointments in any case unless they sit on the government side, so what does it matter?

Mr. McGIBBON: I am trying to restore that privilege to them, if they do not have it now. I hope they will have it in a few days. That is what I am asking for this afternoon.

Miss MACPHAIL: In Southeast Grey the defeated candidate arranges all the appointments.

Mr. McGIBBON: That will be a matter for the people of Southeast Grey to settle at the next election.

Miss MACPHAIL: By that time he will not have anything to do with it.

Mr. McGIBBON: I really do not think it is necessary, Mr. Speaker, to say very much on this subject. As I have said, I opposed this change when it was introduced ten years ago, so it cannot be said that I am inconsistent in this regard. I spoke against it then; I have under my hand the remarks I made as well as the remarks of other members of the house. I have one expression from an ex-minister of the crown of that time, the late Mr. Crothers, another from the late Dr. Edwards, one from myself, not to mention others. But one statement which probably

will carry the greatest weight in this house was made a year ago by the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). After having been in power some ten years and having seen the working of the act, he came out flatly last year with the view that the outside service should be taken away from the Civil Service Commission. I commend his judgment to the house. If, however, we want further reasons I think we have been getting them during the last few days in the press, reasons which were strong enough and which should be influential enough to wipe out the Civil Service Commission forever. I should like to see it done away with; I should like to see the responsibility for the making of appointments placed where it belongs, on the member elected by the people. I am not so very particular whether that member be a government member or supporter or not, but I think that the man or woman whom the people elect should assume that responsibility, because the elected representative of the people should be held responsible for the character of the appointments made.

Miss MACPHAIL: It is not so at all to-day.

Mr. McGIBBON: I hope the hon. member will follow me and give us the benefit of her views.

Miss MACPHAIL: I will.

Mr. McGIBBON: I do not think there is any use debating this motion; probably nine out of ten members in this house are in favour of it. The present system was adopted ten years ago when the members were not favourable to a motion of this kind. The action then taken was one of the incidents of a sort of war hysteria. I have much pleasure in moving that all outside appointments be taken away from the Civil Service Commission and made upon the recommendation of the minister.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): During the recess the government has given consideration to complaints which have been made from time to time with regard to the administration of the civil service. These complaints were voiced in this house during the last session both when the estimates were discussed and also when a certain bill came before the house for consideration. At that time on behalf of the government I asked the house to proceed no further with the bill then under discussion inasmuch as matters of the utmost importance affecting the honour, the efficiency and the good faith of the Civil