

the purpose of welcoming the delegates.

Mr. Grierson moved that the convention now resolve itself into departmental committees for the purpose of carrying on the preliminary investigation of the task before each committee and prepare to report back to the convention at 4.50 p.m.—Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

At 5 o'clock the Hon. Dr. Roche, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, was introduced and welcomed the delegates to the convention in an address which welcomed any representations made by the convention upon any matter coming within the jurisdiction of the Commission, but particularly with regard to the bringing in of the Outside Service, which was the matter upon which the Prime Minister had asked the Commission for report.

Mr. Holmes introduced Dr. Roche as follows:

The Chairman: I will not stand between you and the address of Dr. Roche which you desire to hear. I am glad to see the Doctor looking so well. I had the pleasure of sitting with him in the House of Commons some years ago, and he does not look a day older than he did then. Dr. Roche was born not far from where I lived, so you can understand that I might tell you many things about him. But you would rather he should speak for himself, and I have great pleasure in introducing him to this audience.

Dr. W. J. Roche, chairman of the Civil Service Commission of Canada: Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I wish that my feelings bore out the words you have so kindly spoken about my appearance of youthfulness. But I am young as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, so young that it is with a feeling of due modesty that I appear before a gathering such as this which includes many of the veterans of the Civil Service, the old war-horses of Civil Service organizations. I extend a most hearty greeting to you on your assembling here in Ottawa for conference on the subject of the Civil Service Act, and especially on the proposal of the Government to bring under the operation of that Act the several branches of the Outside Service. That is a step for which, I am sure, public opinion is ripe, for both press and Parliament are

ready for it. I was until recently a member of the Government, and I assure you that if I were a member of the Government I would welcome such a proposition. When all parties interested are of much the same mind on this most important question, I do not think it will be so very difficult to work out a practical plan, one that will be accepted by all concerned. I have no suggestions of my own to make. But my fellow-commissioners and I have discussed the subject informally. We have propounded a number of questions, answers to which we have asked of the deputy heads of departments. There has not been time since then for all replies to come in, but we have already had the answers from four or five departments. I have not had opportunity to read any of them except those from my own former department, the Interior. Our object was to get the views of the deputy heads whose experience as chiefs in the Civil Service cannot but be of benefit as to the best means of bringing under the Civil Service Act the outside branches of their departments. The particular form of the change to be made is a matter, of course, for the Government to decide. However, their object is to do away with patronage and to have appointments made on merit the same as is intended in the case of the Inside Service. Legislation will be required, of course, to work it out finally and embrace the whole of the public service. In the meantime a partial scheme can be carried out by order in council. I do not know that this can be done before the pending election, as very few of the ministers are in Ottawa. The views of the Civil Service Commission have been asked, and we are to submit to the Prime Minister on his return to Ottawa a statement of those views. There is no reason why the Government should not avail itself of the provision of the law under which the Governor-in-Council can bring under the operation of the Act the whole or any part of what is now known as the Outside Service. An order in council can be passed at any time when the ministers are in Ottawa and wish to pass it. That would at least in part do away with the patronage evil, it would prevent the making of local appointments on the nomination of the candidate of the Govern-