

County; that is how they are getting men all over the country. Let nobody think for a moment that men can fool the people by making splendid speeches and saying that there is no patronage. How delighted the people of Ontario were when they heard from the Prime Minister himself that there was no patronage. My friend the President of the Council said "amen" to this pronouncement, and people rejoiced and praised the Lord that this great day had arrived. When the Military Service Act was passed, there were some "amens" and some "hosannas", but there was a louder "hosanna" when the President of the Council announced, by telegrams, cables, messages, runners and fiery crosses throughout Ontario, that the Military Service Act was passed for Quebec, but that it was not to be used in Ontario, and that the farmers' sons were at liberty to do as they liked. But we in this House, are getting a little too old, a little too hard and crusty, any longer to be entertained by such speeches as we heard this afternoon and this evening from the President of the Council and the Prime Minister on this subject. For my part, I would have more respect for the judgment and the honesty of hon. gentlemen if they would take things as they are and not try to throw camouflage over the real state of affairs. The truth is too apparent to the dumbest person in the House or in the country. So far as patronage is concerned, nothing is different from what it was in the good days when party patronage was exercised by the party that for the time being held sway in the House of Commons. That is what is going on now, although it is not admitted as it was on other occasions.

Mr. ROWELL: I must express my surprise at the remarks of my hon. friend. I think, however, there is one obvious interpretation of them. He has been trying to argue himself into the belief that he did not put his party in an entirely false position when he opposed this Bill. He has introduced many other subjects into the discussion of this clause; I shall not follow him in them all. As to the Civil Service, that can be discussed when we reach the Bill dealing with that matter. I shall not follow him on the Military Service Act; it is not germane to the present discussion, but I may say at least that the statement he made, is, of course, quite without foundation. But coming to the subject under discussion, I say to my hon. friend that there is no political patronage in connection with the purchases made by this commis-

sion. If he thinks there is, he has the opportunity of endeavouring to establish that belief before the Public Accounts Committee. If the name of any man producing any particular line of goods is furnished to this commission, the commission will ask him to notify them of all the goods that he handles, and he will have exactly the same opportunity to tender as every other person has. The commission has endeavoured to secure the best list that could be secured of men engaged in various lines of industry and dealing in various kinds of commodities, in order that they may receive notification of the supplies which the Government wishes to purchase, and in order that they may put in a tender if they wish to do so.

I am quite sure my hon. friend has not taken to heart what the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Lemieux) said with reference to the chairman of the commission, Sir Hormisdas Laporte, or Mr. Gundy, or Mr. Galt. Those men have not lent themselves to political party patronage, but they have carried on the business in an honest, straightforward way. This commission is doing so and will continue to do so, notwithstanding the remarks of my hon. friend.

Mr. McKENZIE: If the minister thinks I am looking for an excuse for leading the party on this side of the House to vote against the Bill, I require no such excuse, and if the minister thinks I was wrong, how does he account for so many strong protests from his side of the House? I venture to think that if hon. gentlemen opposite were free from party entanglements and obligations, this Bill would never go through the House. Some of the very best men sitting behind the minister have spoken against the Bill, saying that the commission was not necessary and that it involved a further expense when every dollar should be carefully conserved.

We have at present a committee of members of this House inquiring as to where we can cut down the Civil Service. They say that everything is overlapping; that we have ten to every one that we require in the Civil Service. Those are the statements that are made. I do not know whether they are true or not. We have also a commission to which we have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to find out where we could weed out and cut down the Civil Service. In the midst of all this the minister comes here to create a new department in which at the first flash he is to put 300 men for whom he is creating a home. He admits there is no work for them, because