

ment, as he asserted they were likely to favour their own friends. He did not believe in the method of tying the hands of the Government so that they could not make any changes in their Departments. It seemed to him that there were so many circumstances requiring changes in the public service that the Bill was too straight-laced. He also took objection to the introduction of the oath to candidates for office. He said let there be the hope of reward in the shape of a Superannuation Bill.

At this stage of the debate,

Messrs. Wigle and Widdifield both claimed the floor.

The Chairman decided in favour of Mr. Wigle.

Mr. WIGLE stated that he rose to announce to the House what the hon. gentleman opposite wished to announce, namely, that Mr. Anglin had been re-elected Speaker of the House of Commons. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. WIDDIFIELD said that he rose, not only to re-assert what the hon. gentleman opposite had just stated, but also to state that the Hon. Timothy Warren Anglin had been elected by a majority of 62. (Loud laughter and cheers.)

Mr. MOWAT said no one could deny the importance of such a Bill as that before the attention of the House, and the difficulty of providing a Bill on the subject which would give entire satisfaction had been felt everywhere. His hon. friend who had just spoken seemed to regard the subject as one solely of economy, which he said was really very far from being the fact. It had been the great cry of reformers of the United States; in fact there was no subject upon which they had been more earnest; nothing which they had sought for more eagerly than a satisfactory Civil Service Bill. Committees had been appointed both there and in the English Parliament, and nothing was more certain than that the time employed in framing a Bill of this kind could not have been more profitably employed. If hon. gentlemen opposite expected to see a Bill which would be perfect, and which would not be open to objections, they would be mistaken. If they should wait until perfection was reached, then such a Bill would never be introduced. They must be willing to consider the Bill brought down, and if it were desirable that changes or amendments should be made let them be made, and if they could not be made at once they should have to wait until they could be made as experience found necessary. It was very important that the subject should be legislated upon, and every year it was delayed they were delaying a good work. Objections had been made to some of the clauses, as plausible objections might be made to the provisions of every Bill. One thing that had been urged was that there were so many provisions for Orders in Council. He contended that this was quite a safeguard, as the House was not, nor could not be, expected to say what clerk should or should not be promoted or otherwise. There were the two branches of Government—one administrative and the other legislative. The Bill, instead of providing for the heads of the Departments making changes, provided for an Order in Council, so that all the members of the Government should know of, and take part in, the changes. This was in order to increase safety, and to make sure that every appointment made should be done deliberately, and not be the act merely of one member of the Government, but of all the members. He would not go into the details of the Bill, as that would be done more properly when the Bill was before the House. It was quite possible that, in regard to some of the clauses to which reference had been made, changes would be considered necessary or desirable. If so, the Government would rejoice to make any improvements that the Bill was susceptible of. He asked hon. gentlemen on his side of the House, as well as hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, to assist in making it the best Bill that could be made for the purpose which it was intended to serve. He denied that the Bill was framed in the interests of the present Government, and said that the Government of the late Mr. Sandfield Macdonald

had had a system of conducting the Civil Service which he and his colleagues had left unchanged up to the present, with the exception of varying them slightly from time to time, as circumstances required. He therefore invited a full discussion of the Bill, and promised to enter more fully into it himself when the proper time came.

Mr. CAMERON remarked that he was in accord with the views of the member for Norfolk when dealing with this subject. He said hon. gentlemen opposite appeared to have different views on the question from those they formerly entertained. When it had been proposed to make an appropriation as a superannuation fund, and give annuities to deserving persons, it was the doctrine of Reformers that the names of the persons should be obtained, and no vote should be given until the names should be produced of those whose services were to be dispensed with. That Government had held the view that that matter must essentially come within the power of the Executive, and if they did anything wrong the House should put it right. There was one paragraph in the Bill of which he most decidedly disapproved, and that was No. 13, referring to the employment of private secretaries by the heads of Departments. He designated the resolution as obnoxious. Under the old Administration there were no such officers excepting such as were officers of the Department, and when the heads of Departments retired the secretaries remained. He objected more to the principle than to the amount of money involved. He, therefore, moved, "That the resolution be struck out."

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he had not heard any sufficient reason for allowing hon. gentlemen to have private secretaries which should leave the public service when heads of Departments retired from office. He remembered when the hon. gentleman now at the head of the Government had been in the Government once before, and he had had a private secretary, and he did not think that officer left when the hon. gentleman did.

Mr. MOWAT—I left him.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he also had a secretary once, and he also had left him behind. He referred to the private secretary of the Premier at Ottawa, who, he said, signed his own name to letters of a confidential character. He could not see the necessity for appointing private secretaries when a clerk from the Department could perform the same work.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT proceeded to administer a severe rebuke to the hon. member for South Simcoe, who had made statements so much at variance from what he knew to be the facts. He denied that the practice of employing private secretaries was a new one. The hon. gentleman himself had employed one when a member of the Dominion Government, in 1868. He proposed to read from the statutes to show that the hon. gentleman himself had even been one of those who established the practice.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he had not said that the practice was a new one.

Mr. MOWAT—You did say so on two or three occasions.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—New here.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. gentleman said "new here." He denied that it was new here. The very gentleman who said the practice was a new one was one of those who had assisted to introduce the system here. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman could call the officers clerks or private secretaries, or whatever he pleased, but there was the fact that there were duties necessary to be performed which could not be done without this assistance, and if such a calamity should come upon the country as hon. gentlemen opposite coming into power, they also should require this assistance. (Opposition cries of "Oh! Oh!") He repeated it would be a calamity. He asked whether hon. members intended to continue the discussion on the subject at present.

Mr. CAMERON—Yes, we do.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. CAMERON said his complaint was that the members of the Government should