

country. On those grounds I think it is a most legitimate request on the part of the Great War Veterans' Associations of the different parts of this Dominion, and particularly of the Dominion War Veterans' Association that they should be represented on the commission. Just as I left the Chamber this evening I had this question brought to my attention, and a number of resolutions passed by the Dominion War Veterans' Association with headquarters at Ottawa were handed to me. One of them is to the effect that two returned soldiers be appointed as Civil Service Commissioners, and that any vacancies on the Civil Service Commission within the next five years be filled by returned soldiers. I am not arguing for two returned soldiers on the commission, but I think it is a legitimate request that one should be appointed, and if I interpreted correctly the remarks of the Prime Minister last year when I brought this matter up in the House, and of the minister who was piloting the Bill through the House on a late occasion, they rather leaned towards granting the request of the Great War Veterans' Association by appointing a returned soldier to the commission. I should be very pleased if I could extract from the minister this evening some sort of assurance that a returned soldier will be appointed to the Commission at the proper time.

Mr. FRIPP: My attention has been called to section 12, which fixes the time at which this Act is to come into operation. I would draw the attention of the committee to the fact that the original Bill dealing with this matter, Bill No. 136, introduced last session, antedated the time at which the Bill was to come into operation to April 1, 1919. In April, 1919, the President of the Privy Council stated in the House that the new classification when put into effect would apply to the current fiscal year, commencing April 1, 1919. This promise was repeated

by him in answer to a question 9 p.m. by the hon. member (Mr. Andrews) in May, 1919. It seems to me that in justice to those members of the Service who are to be benefited by the classification, and who have been relying upon the promise made last session, and who have not received a bonus supplementing their salary, this Act should come into operation commencing April 1, 1919.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Even had my hon. friend not raised this point it was my intention at some stage of the discussion in committee to make a statement in reference

[Mr. Manion.]

to the matter. I want to put the facts before the Committee, and to state my own view and just what the position of the Government is at the moment.

It is true that when this Bill was before the House last year it contained a provision that it should become effective as from April 1, 1919. I myself stated that several times in the House. However, when that observation was made by me I did believe that the Bill would be passed and classification become effective by the later part of June or early in July, or, say, within the first three months of the present fiscal year. At that time we had established a bonus for the first three months of this fiscal year, so as to cover approximately the period from April 1, 1919, until the time when the new classification should come into effect. The Government felt that, with the classification in effect, it would be enabled to adjust the bonus on a more proper and scientific basis, because there would be a readjustment of the salaries of all those in the Service. However, the Bill did not pass and classification was not adopted. In view of this fact the Government were obliged to establish a bonus for the Service covering the whole fiscal year from April 1, 1919, to March 31, 1920, and about July 15 an Order in Council was passed creating a bonus for the Service which would be effective until the end of the present fiscal year.

While I had intimate knowledge of the bonus and the steps that were being taken to set it up, yet I had left Ottawa just before the Order in Council was passed making the bonus effective. I understood that having enacted these bonus regulations to which I have referred, it could not be expected by the service that the classification when adopted would become effective as at April last. Now it transpires that under this section which we have changed, it cannot become effective until April next. The effect of the classification will be to give very formidable increases to some members of the Civil Service. In the meanwhile they have got a very substantial bonus, and I am not quite satisfied myself that they are entitled to both—without, at least, some consideration. But on conferring with some of my colleagues I discovered that there might be some doubt about it, and at least one or two of my colleagues feel that the matter should not be definitely disposed of and the definite statement made that the classification should not relate back. Accordingly I wish to say that the matter will have the approval of the Government. In any event