

Civil Service Act

monthly amount for a period of five years and three months, during which time he paid \$1,364.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must remind the hon. member of what I said to the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks). I would ask every hon. member to confine his remarks to the general principle of the resolution which is before the house, and not discuss individual cases. Moreover the remarks should be relevant to the resolution. I do not believe that the remarks of the hon. member are relevant.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Mr. Speaker, I certainly could not quarrel with that decision. What I am trying to show is that even if the veterans' preference is applied, these veterans today, by reason of the long delay in permitting them to qualify under the superannuation act, are placed in a difficult if not impossible position. However, sir, agreeing entirely with your ruling, as I do, and of course accepting it, I will simply point out that having paid that amount, the total credit allowed the veteran is only \$400. I suggest therefore that when the bill based upon this resolution is introduced, something should also be done to provide for the removal of too great a load on veterans who, having the preference, will have been appointed to permanent positions in the civil service.

Yesterday I dealt at some length with the general question of the extent to which the veterans' preference had been applied, I pointed out then that even since the end of the war, on the first of May, 1945, 31,000 out of 75,000 appointments have not had the veterans' preference.

Mr. McILRAITH: I have not had an opportunity of seeing the return. Does that figure include females as well as males?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Yes. I pointed out frankly yesterday, and I repeat, that it does to the extent of 19,969. One of the objections I have received from veterans is that, out of work as they are, and able to do some of the work that today is being done by females recently appointed, they have strong reason to object to the fact that an opportunity is not given them to hold some of the positions that are vacant and are being filled by young women who are not veterans.

That these positions are not unimportant is borne out by this fact.

In appointments made by the civil service commission from May 9, 1945 to April 30, 1947 there were 66,078 with a salary under \$2,000, there were 4,464 in the salary classification between \$2,000 and \$3,000, and there were 1,242 in which the salary paid was over \$3,000. When it is understood, as this reply

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

indicates, that 11,094 appointments were made of males to whom the veterans' preference did not apply, I suggest that the time is overdue when a bill based on this resolution should become the law of the country. Today it is the law under order in council, and now, if this bill passes, it will be the law of the country, and it should not be departed from to the extent we have seen in the last two years.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Were these appointments made in all departments of government, or in one particular department?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: All the departments are referred to in the return, but the return does not indicate which departments have been the offenders. The Postmaster General the other night absolved himself by his answer, so that it indicates that while in the Post Office Department there were a great many appointments—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member will admit, I think, that he is discussing the subject in too great detail. He should confine himself to the general principle set out in the resolution, which is:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Civil Service Act to provide, inter alia, a statutory basis within the act for veterans' preference in appointments to the civil service; to provide for payment of increased salaries to the chairman and members of the civil service commission; payment of annual increases in rates of compensation to temporary employees; and for the establishment of certain temporary positions, appointments thereto, and remuneration thereof.

I would ask him to discuss the general principle of the resolution. If he wishes to discuss the details of it and to ask questions, he should wait until the proper time comes.

Mr. MACKENZIE: May I say, Mr. Speaker, that if there was any offence, I was the offender, because I asked the hon. gentleman a question which he was graciously trying to answer. I apologize for having transgressed the rules of the house.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The minister was most kind to make that explanation. I was trying to show how necessary it was that the principle of the resolution should be carried out and the extent to which the application of that principle is overdue so far as civil service appointments are concerned. The principle of this resolution has been the law under order in council up to the present time. This merely translates that principle into legislative form, if the bill based on the resolution is passed. My reason for giving these details is to point out that