

ate is to take them out from under the Act of 1908. That is the reason why I submit that this is subversive of the policy of Civil Service reform, as repeatedly approved by this House and by the electorate. The Act of 1908 which placed the Inside Civil Service under the Civil Service Commission was an Act accepted by this House, which has not been challenged by either party nor has it been challenged in any of the elections since that date. To accept the amendment would be to go back on the whole principle of Civil Service reform as applied to the public service, and I submit the House cannot properly accept this amendment without abandoning the principle which both parties in this House have agreed upon with reference to the Inside Civil Service. If there has been any difference, it has been in regard to the Outside Service.

The second amendment relates to the holidays which may be enjoyed in the public service. It comes in the form of an addition to the Bill as section 6 and it sets out the holidays that shall be observed in and by the Civil Service:

- (1) Sundays;
- (2) New Year's Day;
- (3) Good Friday;
- (4) Easter Monday;
- (5) Victoria Day;
- (6) The birthday of the reigning Sovereign, or the day fixed by proclamation by the Governor in Council for the celebration thereof;
- (7) Dominion Day;
- (8) Labour Day;
- (9) Christmas Day;
- (10) Any day appointed by proclamation by the Governor in Council to be observed as a general fast or thanksgiving or as a holiday.

The Senate add another clause as clause (7), these two additions being covered by the second amendment which I moved should be concurred in. Under the Civil Service Act of last session, provision is made that appointments in respect of the Government railways and His Majesty's ships shall not come within the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission. I understand some question has been raised as to the proper interpretation of the words "His Majesty's ships." Recently, the question came up and the Department of Justice advised the commission that they thought it desirable that the words "His Majesty's ships" should be more clearly defined so that there would be no question what came within the jurisdiction of the commission and what did not. The Senate has, therefore, added clause (7) as follows:

In this section the expression "ship of His Majesty" includes every description of vessel,

however propelled, which is used in navigation or in the improvement of navigation, and which is the property of or chartered or employed by His Majesty, or the cost of which, or any portion of the cost of which, has been defrayed out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.

This is an interpretative clause which, I am informed, carries out the intention of the section as enacted last session. I understand the first amendment, the one in which I have moved non-concurrence, was the occasion of discussion in the other chamber and a pretty nearly equal division of opinion. The second amendment, embracing the two changes to which I have referred, was, I believe, adopted by the Senate with practical unanimity. The Bill is one of great public importance affecting the whole Civil Service; it is very important that it should pass into law this session, and while one recognizes the right of the other chamber to pass upon these matters, I think we are going a fair way to meet their view and, I trust, to preserve the Bill unimpaired in its essential features if we concur in those amendments in respect of which the Senate was practically unanimous and if we dissent from the other amendment which we cannot accept without impairing the whole principle of the Bill.

Mr. TRAHAN: If I understand the minister aright, he wishes the House to accept the amendment covering the new clauses 6 and 7 and to refuse concurrence in the other amendment. Is that right?

Mr. ROWELL: That is correct.

Mr. TRAHAN: I believe the new clause 6 which has been added by the Senate will have the effect of diminishing the number of holidays for the Civil Service and of putting civil servants who belong to the Catholic religion in a false position. I notice that some holidays which are observed by Catholics are not mentioned in the new clause 6, so that Catholic civil servants will be in this position: Under the law of their religion, they cannot work on Holy days of obligation, and under the proposed amendment they will be obliged to work. It would be a good principle to be followed by the House to respect the religious convictions of all civil servants, and for that reason we should not concur in the amendment embodying the proposed new clause 6 of the Bill.

Mr. CANNON: As the minister has remarked these amendments are very important. Unfortunately, we have not these