

the Governor in Council, upon the recommendation of the head of the department based on the report in writing of the deputy head, may appoint a person to the position without competitive examination and without reference to the age limit, provided the said person obtains from the commission a certificate, to be given with or without examination, as is determined by the regulations of the commission, that he possesses the requisite knowledge and ability and is duly qualified as to health, character and habits."

Under section 13, prescribing competitive tests for all positions in the public service under those of deputy head, we can hold examinations for all technical and professional positions, but as examinations under that section are confined strictly to persons over eighteen and under thirty-five, we have quite frequently found it necessary to have recourse to section 21, in order to enable us to obtain men of experience who could not conform to the age limits or other requirements prescribed under section 13. Therefore, there is very often co-operation between the departments and the commission to secure appointments under section 21, although it seems to be the clear intention of the law that section 21 was to be the exception, and was to be exercised only by the Government. There is occasional friction between the Government and the commission as regards the meaning of this section. The Government takes the ground that it can place under the provisions of section 21 any positions of a professional or technical nature, or any position where the duties can be described as "otherwise peculiar." "Otherwise peculiar" might mean anything, but it must be said to the credit of our public men that they have never attempted to use that phrase in order to secure the appointment of any person to the public service who did not possess the requisite qualifications for the office for which he was nominated. They do, however, exercise the right which the law gives them of making their own selection and nominating to the commission for many of the important positions in the service, but, if any abuse of this privilege is attempted, the Civil Service Commission has the remedy in its own hands. If the Government of the day should nominate for one of the important administrative or professional or technical positions a man who was admittedly not qualified, the commission would simply refuse to issue the certificate. All appointments, even those under section 21, are contingent upon the certificate of the commission. The bone of contention between the Government and the commission is whether or not these positions should be thrown open to competition, especially in cases where the commissioners are satisfied that a better man could be secured by this method of selection. To this dictum the Government frequently demurs, holding that, if the person nominated is qualified, it is no concern of the commission as to whether he is or is not the best man for the position.

In connection with these special positions, if the applicant must be a natural born or a naturalized British subject, within the age limits, of good health and character and so on, we hold special competitions. The positions are advertised and applications invited. The advertisement contains particulars of the examination which the candidates will be required to take. We require an applicant to file an application, giving his name, the date and place of his birth, name, occupation and residence of his father, names and location of the different educational institutions he attended from the time he started school until he finished his college course, and a detailed statement of his training and experience. He is required to give the