

life of me see the necessity of this change. If it is possible to get a sufficient number of young men, who are anxious to get into the civil service at \$400 to start with, with the prospect of that being increased to \$600, and you have plenty of men to do the more technical work at salaries varying from \$1,100 to \$2,000, why create offices for men to whom you propose to pay \$700, \$800 or \$900 when you can get the same work done for \$600 ?

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I think I can point out to the hon. member for East Bruce (Mr. Cargill) the necessity for this Bill, and I am glad to see the government introducing it, because to my mind it is a confession of weakness. They see their coming doom; they know that they have every corridor and every room packed with writers; they know the course they pursued when they came in of dismissing officials; and they know that these officials, if without permanent appointments, will be dismissed. They want this Bill put through simply for the purpose of giving these clerks, who are on the temporary list, permanent appointments, so that when these hon. gentlemen opposite go out, as they will in a few months, and we come in, these new appointees will expect to be kept on permanently, having been appointed by order in council. That is the only necessity for this measure.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa). I cannot at all agree with the spirit in which the discussion has been approached by some hon. members opposite. I do not think it is at all fair to say to a clerk in the civil service, who has done his work for years faithfully, and who desires an increase: We can get somebody else to do the work at the same price and will not give you any increase. That, I am sure, is not what the hon. member for East Bruce (Mr. Cargill) does in his own business. We all employ people and give them increases of salaries, not because they are doing different work, but because they have been doing their work for a number of years. I have a book-keeper in my office who does the same work as he did ten years ago, but his salary has been increased regularly since and so has every clerk in my office, and I am sure that business men generally follow the same practice. It is not fair to say to a writer who has done his work faithfully for a number of years: You can go adrift, if you are not satisfied, because we can get some one to do the work at the same salary.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Under the present Bill they get an increase.

Mr. BELCOURT. Up to \$600.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is that too little for a man who simply does copying ?

Mr. BELCOURT. They are not restricted to copying. They are often called on to do other work.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What other work ?

Mr. BELCOURT. Making compilations, for instance.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Perhaps the hon. the Minister of Marine can tell us ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It depends on the department they are in.

Mr. BELCOURT. I do not care what kind of work they are called on to do, when a man has been doing work for a number of years, that entitles him to an increase of salary.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Up to a certain limit.

Mr. BELCOURT. Of course I would not pay \$2,000 to a man who does work that is well paid for at \$1,000, but people cannot live in a city like this and bring up families on \$600. It is all very well for members of rural constituencies, where living is much cheaper, to talk about the salaries paid in the civil service.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Our rural constituencies do not get \$60,000 per year each to do their own local improvements.

Mr. WALLACE. Nor do they get into the Yukon jobs.

Mr. CARGILL. You must not class the rural business men of Ontario with the lawyers of this country. They have not the same facilities for making money.

Mr. BELCOURT. I am not going to notice interruptions of this kind. I think that these comparisons are very invidious.

Mr. FOSTER. As a humble member of a rural constituency, I protest against the slur cast upon us by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BELCOURT. I do not mean any offence, I am only stating what is the case, that year after year we have gentlemen in this House who represent rural constituencies—and I am not saying that they are not entitled to as much consideration as others—making attacks on the civil service.

Mr. FOSTER. There is a great deal of breezy common sense among the rural constituencies.

Mr. BELCOURT. I say that the civil service has been made the legitimate prey of these gentlemen. There are abuses, no doubt, which ought to be remedied in the service, but I do not think it deserves to be made the butt of such attacks as it is from year to year in this House.

Mr. CARGILL. When did I make any attack on the civil service ?

Mr. BELCOURT. My hon. friend—