

Organization and Scope of the Enlarged Civil Commission.

Mr. BORDEN moved on Feb. 19, the second reading of the Bill to amend the Civil Service Act, by enlarging the scope of the C. S. Commission. He said: The purpose of this Bill is expressed on its face. At the present time there are two Civil Service Commissioners. Inconvenience has been found to arise in more than one instance by reason of the members of the commission being equally divided, in which case no action can be taken. For that reason it has been thought desirable to introduce this Bill to enable the government to appoint another commissioner. There is another reason which I mentioned on the introduction of the Bill. It is hoped that the provisions of the Civil Service Amendment Act, 1908, will be extended in the early future to some portions, at least, of the outside service. The leader of the opposition, who was present when I introduced the Bill, alluded to some positions in the outside service, such as postmasters in cities, to which he thought the Act might be extended almost at once. Inasmuch, however, as we do not know how soon this can be accomplished, or how soon the services of another commissioner may be required for that purpose, it has been thought best to introduce a provision in section 2 of the Bill that it shall not come into force until proclamation by the Governor General in Council.

Mr. KYTE. Is it the intention of the Bill to make appointments to the outside service subject to competitive examination?

Mr. BORDEN. I have said that it is the desire and intention of the government to extend as rapidly as possible, to some parts of the outside service at least, the provisions of the Civil Service Amendment Act, 1908.

How rapidly that can be done, what progress can be made in putting it into effect, I cannot say, for the reason that we have not been able, owing to the very numerous matters pressing upon our attention during this session, to give much consideration to it.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). It can be done by order in council.

Mr. BORDEN. It can be done by order in council; but we must have regard to some other considerations. I imagine that there would have to be some departmental inquiry necessary in every case to enable the government to form a just conclusion as to how far the provisions of the Civil Service Amendment Act could be brought into operation in any particular department.

Mr. OLIVER. What position will the new appointee take? Is he to be chairman?

Mr. BORDEN. We have not given any consideration to that at all. We merely provide that there shall be three commissioners instead of two, and that one of them should be chairman.

Mr. OLIVER. What is the salary?

Mr. BORDEN. The same as before, no change.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). Does the chairman receive a larger salary than the other members?

Mr. BORDEN. It is not so provided in this Bill.

Mr. MURPHY. Will the chairman be designated by order in council?

Mr. BORDEN. The Governor in Council may appoint one of the members of the commission to be its chairman.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.