

other cases. It was the general principle on which I wished to get information. I knew of this particular case and I have not the least doubt that there are a great many more. If there are, I feel that it is an unjust way in which to treat these men. There is nothing further that I wish to bring to the minister's attention; I hope he will be able to answer what I have said.

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to read the portions of the resolution which are pertinent to the remarks I wish to make. First, it says:

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.

What the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) has said I am in agreement with and will not repeat. However, there is one matter that I wish to bring to the attention of the minister. If the veterans' preference has been generally applied as the government indicates, then I point out that very few veterans serving in the civil service who were entitled to the preference have been made permanent.

The other day I had occasion to ask the following question:

How many veterans of the first great war entitled to veterans' preference and who entered the government service on or after the 19th July, 1927, are recognized as being permanent and subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

The answer that I received I have summarized, and it shows that of the total number of veterans who are in the civil service and who have been appointed within the last twenty years, only 5,577 are recognized as permanent and subject to the Civil Service Superannuation Act. The departments and the numbers are as follows: Department of Agriculture, 250; Public Archives, 1; Office of Auditor General, 8; Civil Service Commission staff, 5; Comptroller of Treasury, 33; Department of External Affairs, 8; Department of Finance, 1; Canadian Farm Loan Board, 7; Royal Canadian Mint, 6; Department of Fisheries, 44; Governor General's secretary, 3; Department of Insurance, 4; Department of Justice, 192; Department of Labour, 7; Unemployment Insurance Commission, 331; Department of Mines and Resources, 255; Department of National Defence, 92; National Film Board, 3; National Harbours Board, 4; Department of National Health and Welfare, 39; Department of National Revenue, 1,088; Post Office Department, 1,202; Department of Public Printing and Stationery, 62; Depart-

ment of Public Works, 228; Department of Reconstruction and Supply, none; Air Transport Board, 1; National Research Council, 11; Department of the Secretary of State, 4; Department of Trade and Commerce, 154; Department of Transport, 524; Department of Veterans Affairs, 1,010; total, 5,577, which indicates that of the number of veterans who have joined the service since July of 1927 a very small proportion have been made permanent. Something should be done to end as far as possible the temporary classification which in certain cases lasts for many years, not because of inefficiency or neglect of duty on the part of the individual but apparently because of neglect on the part of officialdom somewhere. The difficulty, of course, is that when these veterans are denied permanence they are also in consequence denied superannuation. Finally when they are allowed to accept superannuation they have to pay back for the time in which they have been in the service. That has proved exceptionally costly and difficult.

I have before me one case, and it is representative of many, in which a temporary civil servant finally was allowed to come within the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act. For instance, the protective staff were denied that privilege for many years. Finally when they came under the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act they had to pay contributions for the years in which they were not within the provisions of this act, and also the interest thereon, which in many cases has become almost prohibitive. Let me give an example of the figures in that connection. One of these men was required to pay back—

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I must interrupt the hon. member. The matter dealing with the superannuation act has nothing whatever to do with the Civil Service Act.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: It is part of the picture.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): I understand that another bill will be before the house dealing with the Civil Service Superannuation Act. The hon. member can discuss the matter then.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Since the matter dovetails in with the argument I am advancing I decided to deal with it now rather than have to bring it up again on the other bill. If the minister will permit me to complete it, I think he will understand the pertinence of it. The amount that this man was ordered to repay was \$2,998.34. He continued to pay a