

Beatty commission is working out now. My deputy reminds me that the other day he and others had the opportunity of being heard before the commission. I was not there, but I can imagine what kind of evidence my deputy would give and I understand that it was favourably received. Everything is being done that can be done in this regard. Long before I came here I was told that the staff were constantly on the job, endeavouring to get their technical men on an equality with others,

Mr. COOTE: If this commission should decide that a number of men who are now engaged in what is called research work in connection with rust at Winnipeg, are technical men, is there any provision whereby the salaries of such men can be adjusted now without the necessity of waiting until parliament meets again?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Prior to a recent ruling, we could get an adjustment by a new classification, but apparently such general advantage was taken of this that a ruling was made that any such classification would not take effect until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Mr. GARDINER: Could the minister explain the reason why these men cannot secure increases when it seems to be so easy for the deputies to secure them?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend asked a question in regard to the proposal to grant increases to technical men. As he knows, a royal commission has been appointed and at the present time is meeting expressly for the purpose of advising the government what, in the opinion of its members, should be paid to these professional and technical men in the government service. The government hopes to be governed in its decision by the report of that commission. The fact that it has appointed this commission is evidence of the desire of the government to see that those coming within the categories mentioned are properly and adequately paid.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): May I ask the Prime Minister if that was not the purpose of the reference to the Civil Service Commission of this same question some time ago?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It was, but unfortunately the Civil Service Commission gave an answer that I do not think my hon. friend would approve of. Certainly the government did not approve of it. We think that the suggestion of the Civil Service Commission was most inadequate. We felt that the professional and technical men were entitled to

very much better recognition than the Civil Service Commission was prepared to grant them, and for that reason we appointed a royal commission to look further into the matter.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It will take its guidance, I take it, from the remarks just now made by the Prime Minister that the salaries should be increased over the rates recommended by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think as respects certain of those concerned that my hon. friend may take that pretty much for granted.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That will be all to the good, but I frankly look with a good deal of dread and disappointment at the continuous delays on the part of the administration in this matter. They have simply passed the thing on from one year to another. The Prime Minister's excuse at this moment may be a very legitimate and a very laudable one, that the government desire to give an increase to the technical men greater than that proposed by the Civil Service Commission. I think perhaps that that is worth while waiting for. In the meantime let us hope that the words of the Prime Minister may be an encouragement to these technical men who are now thinking of leaving their present positions in Canada, and that that encouragement will help them to continue in their present positions.

Mr. COOTE: My only reason for delaying the committee one minute on this question is that I am credibly informed that we are liable to lose one or two of the most valuable men we have engaged in research work in connection with rust, which after all, is one of the biggest problems facing agriculture in Canada. If the remarks of the Prime Minister are correct, I am a little surprised that the government did not accept the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, and if they felt that the technical men were not being adequately compensated by the increases recommended by the Civil Service Commission they could then very well have appointed the royal commission which is now sitting and empowered them to recommend further increases to such of the technical men as they think should receive it. As I said, we are very liable to lose one or two men, particularly one whom we should find it impossible to replace, and who will likely go to the United States at an initial salary of