

of pay; and those who enlisted after the Military Service Act came into force got their military pay only. But, so far as increases of pay are concerned, the men who went overseas got their statutory increases just the same as those who remained at home. My hon. friend shakes his head, but that is my information, and that is the settled policy of the Government. If a man did not get his statutory increase, the matter should be brought to the attention of the commission and the injustice will be righted.

The case of the man who resigned from the service before going overseas is different; he stands in the same position as any other man applying to re-enter the service. But this section is designed to put him in a better position than he is in now by giving him a preference on re-entering the service. If such cases as those mentioned by my hon. friend from South Perth (Mr. Steele), are brought to the attention of the commission they will be very carefully investigated and remedied, because the settled policy of the Government is that no man shall be prejudiced in his position in the service by reason of having gone overseas. If my hon. friends who have spoken will bring to the attention of the commission the particular cases they have in view they will be very carefully investigated.

Mr. STEELE: I am aware that the statutory increases of those men were provided for; but they have been prejudiced in having lost their promotion. As I have said, the men who remained at home have been advanced to the vacancies which occurred during the war, and the returned men have had to take subordinate positions, and consequently they are suffering the greatest hardship.

Mr. ROWELL: I think those cases will be taken care of in the application of the reclassification, because under it a man is allocated to the class for which he is fitted by reason of his previous service, and no man is to receive less remuneration than he received under the old classification. But I repeat, if there are particular cases where any injustice has been suffered, the commission will, I am sure, thoroughly investigate them, if they are drawn to their attention, and will endeavour to find a remedy.

Mr. McKENZIE: I think this is a proper amendment and will serve a very good purpose. The only feature I would like to suggest to the minister is that in making

up the lists, as there may be many applicants ahead of the returned man, he will be at a decided advantage.

Mr. ROWELL: Under the law as it stands and the regulations of the Civil Service Commission the returned soldier gets the preferred position, being placed at the head of all civilian applicants for the same position, no matter when he made application.

Mr. McKENZIE: That may be a practice of the department, but we know nothing about it and I would prefer to have it embodied in the statute. I would like to make it clear that the returned soldier is not to be secondary to any other man who may have passed the Civil Service examinations while the former was absent at the front.

Mr. FIELDING: The practice referred to deals with all returned soldiers so they shall have priority over civilians. At first that was an advantage to the returned soldier, but as time went on the returned men became so numerous that this priority ceased to be of any great value. This clause seems to deal with men who resigned from the Civil Service with the intention of leaving it; they voluntarily broke their connection; therefore they cannot stand in precisely the same position as the men who, by arrangement, retained their place in the service.

Mr. ROWELL: Those men are not required to pass any examination. They are to be put on these preferred lists. The fact of their previous experience of the work of the department would, I should think, entitle them to such a place on the lists as would practically assure their appointments when vacancies occur.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Does the minister mean that appointment is confined to the department in which the soldier was at the time he resigned? Or will the soldier be at liberty to apply for a position in any other department in the Civil Service?

Mr. ROWELL: He is at liberty to apply for a position in any branch of the service for which he is qualified.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Without examination?

Mr. ROWELL: Without examination. On section 4—Annual increases unless classification provides otherwise.