

takes the ground that he will not continue to pay salaries to these employees. That is the position as reported to me.

Mr. VIEN: When was the question first raised?

Mr. CALDER: I cannot say, but I understand it is only in recent weeks.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queen's): I have had some representations from officials in the Civil Service whose appointments date back to 1914 and 1915. They believed that their appointments were permanent and so accepted them, but when the reclassification was made the increases it provided were refused them because the appointments were made by the minister, who, it is said, had no power under the statute to make permanent employments. Being simply ministerial appointments, they were considered only temporary. I am referring to persons who work in the Department of Agriculture, Live Stock Branch. The minister will agree with me, I think, that when we blanket in those who are under the Interior Department, we should extend the same privilege to officials in other departments.

Mr. CALDER: Where does the official live, to whom the hon. member refers?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queen's): I am speaking of different officials. One lives in Winnipeg, working in the markets division, and another in Moncton, in the Live Stock Branch. I am informed that they are creditable officials who do good work, and they did not know that their appointments were only temporary under the law until the point was raised by the Civil Service Commission. I submit to the minister that in all fairness we should give them some consideration when we are considering those in the Interior Department.

Mr. CALDER: The question raised by the hon. member is an entirely different one from that now under consideration, and it might very well be considered when the Civil Service Amendment Bill is before the House. It is not on all-fours with this. These appointments we are now considering are Outside; they belong to the Outside Service, but the officials are at Ottawa.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queen's): They belong to the Outside Service wholly?

Mr. CALDER: Yes. Those whom we are considering now belong to the Outside Service, but live in Ottawa.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): Has the Civil Service Commission represented to the minister that this legislation is necessary?

Mr. CALDER: Apparently hon. gentlemen are not satisfied, so I will read the memorandum that has been placed in my hands by the Deputy Minister of the Department of the Interior:

This amendment is to clear up the status of a number of employees appointed at Ottawa between September, 1908, and the 24th May, 1918. During this period the minister had the power to make appointments to our Outside Service and there is no doubt as to the status of those who were engaged at points outside of Ottawa. However, some were put on at Ottawa for the performance of work which it was contemplated would be transferred elsewhere and technically, these might be held to have been improperly appointed, although as a matter of fact, they have been paid their salaries for years and are now occupying positions that have been classified after investigation by the Civil Service Commission as part of our permanent organization.

There are about two hundred and sixty-six employees of the category above mentioned appointed to Dominion Lands Service, and to other services of the department directly connected with the same, and the above clause, as amended will legalize their appointments so that they may be deemed to have been appointed permanently to the Civil Service from the date of their assignment to their respective positions in the Department of the Interior.

Now it appears that the question of the position of these employees in the Department of the Interior was referred to the Department of Justice, and Mr. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice gave this opinion:

If the employees in question were engaged to fill positions on your departmental staff at Ottawa, then I am of the opinion, speaking generally, that these positions were within the "inside service", as defined by Section 3 of the Civil Service Amendment Act, 1908 and the incumbents can be regarded as permanent only if they were appointed in accordance with the provisions of the said amendment Act.

They were not appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1908, and consequently they cannot be regarded as permanent employees. Now, I have been advised that the auditor—I was speaking to Mr. Cory about it yesterday—has taken the ground that these appointments should be made regular.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): I think the minister is entitled to this legislation and probably has given reasons for it. However, I hope that when the Bill gets through committee the third reading will not be proceeded with until Monday so that one may be enabled in the meantime to make some inquiry about it.