

17. The Secretary of State drew attention to the fact that the thirty-five year rule was based on the principle that it was undesirable to engage, after the age of thirty-five, employees who would acquire pension rights which would be insufficient at the time of their retirement. Further, it was pointed out that amendment of the regulation in question would not necessarily lead to appointment of the employees mentioned by the Minister; in this case it was understood that there were sufficient qualified veterans to fill all positions.

18. The Cabinet, after further discussion, agreed that the Civil Service regulation in question (Regulation 8) be re-examined, with a view to its amendment so as to raise to forty-five years the limit of age below which persons continually employed for a period of two years should be entitled to qualify for appointment to positions in the Civil Service.

Civil Service; conservation of electric power;
interdepartmental committee

19. The Secretary of State submitted a proposal for the establishment of an inter-departmental committee to consider and report on steps necessary to conserve electric power throughout the government service during the current Ontario power shortage and at the same time to secure the most effective working arrangements.

The present shortage had led to a programme of power cuts which affected government departments seriously, particularly where electrically operated equipment was used. The hours of work had already been lessened in certain departments. It was expected that these cut-offs would continue through the winter and spring months and possibly for a longer period.

An explanatory document had been circulated.

(Secretary's memorandum, Nov. 9, 1948 - Cabinet Document 793).

20. The Minister of Justice drew attention to the urgency of ensuring that during the forthcoming session of Parliament adequate power was available. For this essential purpose investigation should be made of the possibility of installing emergency equipment.

21. The Cabinet, after discussion, agreed:

(a) that an interdepartmental committee be set up to consider and report to Ministers concerned the steps which should be taken to

RG 2, A5a,
Vol. 2642

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