

all the prominent business men, so as to ensure that a postmaster would be appointed with a reputation for honesty, and who has the respect of the community generally. The making of these inquiries would entail considerably more work on the post office inspectors. All these things I have no doubt, will be considered by the commission in the interval.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: This section provides for the keeping of a list of eligibles, and that those members of the service who have been laid off shall head the list. I have some doubt as to the wisdom of making a list of eligibles until the case arises to make the appointment. It will be time enough then to find the best man. A man who formerly held a position in the Civil Service may not be the best man to appoint to-day. This subsection 2 is very broad. It makes no exception to the rule: An eligible who has formerly been in the Civil Service may be 70, 80, 90 or 100 years old; yet if he is at the head of the list we are bound to appoint him, as far as I understand it. The section provides that:

Whenever a vacancy in any position in the Civil Service is to be filled, the deputy head shall request the Commission to make an appointment. The Commission shall thereupon appoint the person whose name stands highest upon the eligible list.

The only qualification is that the person shall formerly have been employed in the service. The fact that an employee is out of the service now is pretty good evidence that he is not eligible for a new appointment. Why should we legislate that all those people who have been in the service and who have been allowed to separate themselves from the service for some reason or other should take first rank in making new appointments? You are binding the Civil Service Commission down very solidly in that and it is inconsistent with the idea that we should get the best man for the job.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That subsection 2 which places at the head of the eligible list those who have previously held permanent positions simply refers to those civil servants who, by reason of shortage of work in their departments or something of that nature, were laid aside. The Act provides that he must still be kept on the eligible list, but that does not always mean that he gets an appointment.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Their names are first on the list.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The idea is that if in any given department a certain number

of men who are competent and who are permanent employees of the department were laid aside simply by reason of diminished work in the department, or for some other cause not attributable to the employees themselves, they should get the first chance of getting back provided of course their qualification still remains. There is another clause in the Act which would preclude the employment of an octogenarian or anything like that. I think it would be unfair to refuse to consider the claims of a permanent employee who was temporarily laid aside.

On section 45—promotions:

Mr. McQUARRIE: Just before you pass section 45 will it not be necessary to make a change there to cover the word "grades" which you inserted in section 42?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I think I know what is in my hon. friend's mind but I do not really think there is much in his objection. I would like to have an opportunity of considering it, however. I will confer with my hon. friend and if there is any reason for the amendment which he suggests I will confer with the minister in charge of the Bill in the Senate.

Mr. McQUARRIE: If you look at page 550 of the classification, you will see what I mean. There are different grades. To be consistent the word "grades" should be put in here as well as "classes" but I am quite prepared to accept the minister's promise.

Mr. DEVLIN: How will the commission determine as to merit in reference in promotions in a department? Will they refer to the deputy head or the head of the department and get his certificate?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There will be a practical examination on the duties of the office.

Mr. COPP: In the Outside or Inside Service?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There is no distinction between the Inside and the Outside Service. The Bill refers to what we have always known as the Inside Service but it will be applicable in a large degree to the Outside Service.

Mr. COPP: In the event of an official in the Outside Service resigning, will his assistant be promoted to his position?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Seniority and competency will both be considered. An official must be competent in all cases before