

15. The Cabinet, after discussion, approved the Maritime Commission's recommendation for subsidy to the Company and agreed that provision for payment thereof be made accordingly; it being noted that the Commission were preparing a report as indicated by the Minister upon a system of licensing and rate control.

Civil Service; qualification for permanent appointment; age limit

16. The Minister of National Health and Welfare drew attention to difficulty encountered in the application of the Civil Service regulation respecting qualification of temporary employees to enter Civil Service competitions for positions which they had previously held.

Under the present regulation, temporary employees over the age of thirty-five years were not permitted to write examinations which would enable them to qualify for clerical posts which they had held as temporaries. In one Family Allowance office this provision had resulted in disqualifying some eighteen employees who had given loyal and satisfactory service over three years. These people were debarred from an opportunity to qualify because of their age. At the same time a number of their fellow employees, being under thirty-five, were able to write and qualify in the examinations.

The application of this provision was not only unfair in terms of satisfactory service but was inconsistent with the Labour Department programme of educating employers to provide employment for persons of forty or over.

In the circumstances, it was recommended that consideration be given to review of the present regulation with the object of increasing to forty-five years the age beyond which employees would not be entitled to qualify or, alternatively, by waiving this provision in certain cases.

The application of the overseas preference would not be affected in any way by this proposal. It would merely ensure that qualified non-veterans over the age of thirty-five would be treated in the same way as those under that age.

An explanatory memorandum had been circulated.

(Minister's memorandum, Nov. 9, 1948 - Cabinet Document 792).

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