

"The general conclusion on the matter has accordingly been that an extension of the preference to include all persons who had served in the forces would not be justified."

The Commission points out that veteran appointments in November, 1945, amounted to 80 per cent of all male appointments and that a great many temporary employees who were appointed during the war are now being replaced by returning veterans.

The Department of National Defence estimates that the number of "General Service" veterans who served in Canada only, for one year or more, will be in the neighbourhood of 153,000 (Army), 118,000 (Air), 46,000 (Navy).

Section 9 (b)

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL SERVICE OF PERSONNEL WHO RESIGNED TO ENLIST

The Civil Service Commission's memorandum states in part as follows:—

Another point to which reference should be made is the difference between re-establishment procedure in industry and Government. Under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act persons who joined the Armed Forces are given a general guarantee of re-employment in their former or similar positions. In the Civil Service this guarantee is limited to persons who enlisted with the consent of their departments and who were serving before the war or if appointed subsequently, in positions not arising out of war activities. In other words, a person who had to resign in order to enlist does not get the guarantee of re-employment in the Civil Service which he enjoys in industry. It does not seem desirable that this differentiation should continue.

Section 10

VETERANS' BUREAU Status of Commission

The National Council of Veteran Associations submitted that the suggested change to a commission status would free the Veterans' Bureau from what might be considered Departmental influence or direction and give the Chief Pensions Advocate powers equal to the power of the Chairman of the Canadian Pension Commission.

The Committee appreciates the significance of the Bureau's work and made careful inquiries to ascertain the proper status in keeping with those important functions. It sought unsuccessfully to obtain an opinion that the functions presently performed by the Veterans' Bureau would be the proper functions of a commission as a commission is normally a fact-finding or judicial and administrative body and not a group of advocates.

Furthermore, a Commission, while free from Departmental direction, would not necessarily be free from Government direction and the merit system of appointment might be sacrificed.

The limited term of office of a Commissioner would mean the possible loss of men who had gained experience in the work, knowledge of the jurisprudence and confidence of the veteran body by continuous association.

The Committee have not received any confirmatory opinion that the present high standard of the work of the Veterans' Bureau would be improved if the Bureau were to be given the status of a Commission nor that the individual ex-service man or woman would feel better satisfied with the service.