

In regard to this letter I want to submit to the right hon. the Prime Minister that frequently, and properly so, he appeals to the proper authority of the Civil Service Commission and the Civil Service Act, and very frequently pleads that as an excuse for not doing a certain thing. I am not criticising that stand, but I ask him to see that he and his government are consistent in that matter. Now I have here a letter from Mr. Foran, the secretary of the Civil Service Commission, to Dr. Torrance:

I am in receipt of a communication from the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in which it is recommended that your retirement should be effected under the terms of the Public Service Retirement Act from November 30, 1923. Since you will be sixty-four years of age and will have been in the public service seventeen years and eleven months you will be entitled to receive upon retirement an annual retiring allowance of 18/60ths of your average salary for the last three years (18/60ths of \$5,040) i.e. an approximate annuity of \$1,512. In addition to this your deputy minister has recommended that you be granted two months' salary gratuity in lieu of notice.

The letter goes on to ask for a sworn statement as to age and so forth, and the statement follows:

Dr Torrance—Veterinary Director General

Age. 63; Service, temporary, January, 1906; permanent, December 1, 1912; 17 years and 6 months.

Date of retirement, July 10, 1923. Salary on retirement, \$5,040. Average, \$5,040. Retirement annuity 18/60ths of \$5,040—\$1,512.

Then we have another letter from Dr. Torrance to the secretary of the Civil Service Commission, admitting the correctness of that statement. Then follows a letter from the secretary of the Civil Service Commission dated July 17, in which he refers to the terms set forth in the letter of July 11, which I have just read. Now this indicates, I submit to the Prime Minister, two things: A distinct bargain with the minister regarding his retirement, and secondly, an acknowledgement by the Civil Service Commission of the justice of it. The minister comes to-night, having been put to a great deal of inconvenience to justify his course in this matter, and says: Oh, I find that Dr. Torrance was not employed for two or three years prior to 1912, that he did not do permanent work before that date. Now the statement never suggested that; the statement to the Civil Service Commission never suggested that. Everybody knew that Dr. Torrance was on temporary employment from 1906 to 1912. But this is what I want to put to the Prime Minister: Dr. Torrance was a man standing high in his profession. The late Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Minister of Agriculture of that day, the late Hon. Sydney A. Fisher, employed Dr. Torrance. They did not put him on the temporary staff

[Mr. Stevens.]

for any political reasons, but they put him on there, as far as anybody knows, and there is no contradiction of this, because he was an outstanding veterinarian; and the succeeding government of Sir Robert Borden retained him in office as such and made him permanent. Everybody appreciates that. Everybody appreciates also the high standing of Dr. Torrance.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: May I ask a question? Does my hon. friend take the ground that for two years during which Dr. Torrance did not work one hour for the government he should be allowed an annuity?

Mr. STEVENS: I take the ground that it is within the right and power of the government and the Civil Service Commission to grant Dr. Torrance an annuity under the act of \$1,512, and the order in council prepared, a copy of which I have under my hand, and which I might as well read, shows that. It reads:

OTTAWA, September 4, 1923.

[To His Excellency the Governor General in Council.]

The undersigned has the honour of approving and submitting the following report from the Civil Service Commission:

The Civil Service Commission has received a report from the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, setting forth that owing to advanced age, it is desirable to retire from the public service Dr. F. Torrance, Veterinary Director General, Ottawa, under the provisions of the Public Service Retirement Act 1920 as amended 1921, 1922 and 1923, and the Civil Service Commission concurs in this recommendation.

As required by the said act Dr. Torrance has been duly notified of the intention to retire him from the public service and has acquiesced therein.

Dr. Torrance was born July 13, 1859, and is consequently sixty-four years of age; he was appointed as veterinary inspector by order in council of March 1, 1906, and acted intermittently in this capacity until December 1, 1912, when he was appointed Veterinary Director General, since which time his service has been continuous. Although Dr. Torrance's service was intermittent he was retained under the authority of the order in council and was liable to be called upon for service during any of this time.

In other words, he was retained in a professional capacity. To continue:

For this reason the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Civil Service Commission are of the opinion that Dr. Torrance's service should be considered as continuous from the 1st March, 1906 for the purposes of calculating his annuity, making a total service of seventeen years and nine months on the 1st December, 1923, the date upon which his retirement is recommended to be effected. The deputy minister further reports that in the event of this retirement being effected the vacancy caused thereby will require to be filled.

The Civil Service Commission therefore recommends that authority be granted under the provisions of the said act for the retirement of Dr. F. Torrance, Veterinary Director General of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, from December 1, 1923; and that in lieu of one month's notice and one month's salary gratuity he shall receive two months' salary gratuity.