

Civil Service Act

if correct, did not meet with the views I had expressed to the house in connection with this matter. Since that time the matter has received considerable attention and I propose to move the following amendment:

That the proposed resolution be amended by striking out all the words after "them" in the third line thereof, and substituting the following:

"payment as from the date of their reemployment for services actually performed at the rates of remuneration paid to other employees for similar services."

The amendment would then read:

Resolved that it is expedient to provide for the readjustment of the salaries of certain postal employees in western Canada who were dismissed in 1919 and subsequently reemployed to give them payment as from the date of their reemployment for services actually performed at the rates of remuneration paid to other employees for similar services.

If the legislation proposed by this resolution is enacted it is our purpose to work out a system in order to determine what would be coming to each employee who had gone out on strike and then returned. It is my intention that the Civil Service Commission be requested to appoint a man to work in conjunction with an official of the Post Office department, perhaps the Assistant Deputy Postmaster General, to arrive at the amounts, if any, which would be due to the different persons whose names appear on the list of ninety-six submitted to the house.

Amendment agreed to.

Resolution as amended agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Veniot thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 252, respecting certain employees of the postal or railway mail service of Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the senate to Bill No. 7, to amend the Civil Service Act (Private Secretaries).

Mr. STEVENS: Explain.

Mr. RINFRET: The amendments proposed by the senate are purely technical. Section 60, subsection 1 of the act reads as follows:

Any person may be appointed by a minister of the crown or other member of the government to be his private secretary,

[Mr. Veniot.]

In the amendment submitted at the beginning of the session, which was passed by the house, the following words appeared, "and in the event of the minister" without stating "or other member of the government," and the amendment proposed by the senate makes subsection 2 of the section agree with subsection 1.

Mr. H. E. SPENCER (Battle River): This bill was called to my attention by certain of the civil servants of Ottawa. Under the Civil Service Act an employee expects promotion from year to year, and it seems to me that if private secretaries are taken into the service when the ministers leave and employed as chief clerks they would be preventing the promotion of those under them. We should have some information from the minister as to what hardship is likely to be imposed upon those already in the service.

Mr. RINFRET: The house has already approved of the principle of this bill, and I think on a previous occasion I made an observation on the very point the hon. member now raises. If a minister takes from the service one who is to be employed as his secretary, and that person remains as his secretary for three or four years, in the meanwhile the work of the department must be done and naturally the positions will be filled. I have explained before that it does not matter very much to the civil service whether you employ a man already in the service or one from outside. If this bill carries, it means only that when a minister retires his secretary becomes a member of the civil service. If the minister had taken a person from the service instead of from outside, that person would go back into the service just the same. It will be for the commission and the department, of course, to adjust the situation, but it is expected that this will not occur very frequently.

Mr. STEVENS: Very few cases.

Mr. RINFRET: It will apply to only a few cases. I think the house was unanimous in approving the bill, and I desire to repeat that the amendment made by the senate does not add a single individual to the scope of the bill, but merely provides for a clearer wording of it.

Mr. SPENCER: Has there been any opposition to this bill from the organized civil service?

Mr. RINFRET: None has come to my notice.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.