

civil servants, under the present Civil Service Act, so far as promotions, increases of salaries, and things of that kind are concerned, and they have asked that a Bill be submitted to Parliament to rectify the irregularities. I may say, further, that many phases of the work in connection with the Civil Service have only recently been got at. We threw a huge volume of work on the Civil Service Commission by the Act of 1918, and there are some phases of their work that have not yet been grappled with. It is only recently that the request has been made that these appointments that were made irregularly should be legalized. I can assure my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding) that appointments of this class were made prior to 1911 and after 1911, and it seems to me that the only thing for us to do is to legalize them.

Mr. FIELDING: My hon. friend says that there is no question that some of these appointments were made irregularly in 1908, 1909, and 1910. I am obliged to dissent from that. He has given us no evidence that anything of the kind took place in those years, and I am bound to think that he is mistaken. In all these years we have had a very capable Auditor General. I am not sure of the date of the death of the late John McDougall or the late Mr. Fraser, but both of them were very able, vigorous, and capable officials, and neither of them would have permitted us to make irregular appointments of these officials. The fact that no exception was taken to the appointments that were made in former years is presumptive evidence that they were made regularly, and when my hon. friend says there is no question that they were made improperly, that is not camouflage; it is worse.

Mr. CALDER: I am not going to delay the committee. I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. BELAND: Do not do that.

Mr. CALDER: I can see no other course open when the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's says that there is no possibility of any of these appointments having been made prior to 1911, which is in direct contradiction of the statement I have made.

Mr. FIELDING: I did not say the appointments were not made. I said that there was no evidence that the appointments were made irregularly or illegally. I take it for granted that the appoint-

ments were made, but they must have been made regularly and legally, or the Auditor General would not have paid the salaries without question. I have no objection to the Bill.

Motion withdrawn.

Mr. VIEN: Does the minister know of similar cases in other departments, or is the Dominion lands the only branch concerned?

Mr. CALDER: I do not know as to other departments.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): How many of these appointments were made prior to 1911? I will not ask the minister to give the names of the men appointed, but he might identify them by giving their class.

Mr. CALDER: I have not that information before me.

Mr. VIEN: How many employees, all told, were so appointed?

Mr. CALDER: All told, 260.

Mr. VIEN: How many prior to 1911?

Mr. CALDER: I have not the figures.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: How many of these were permanent officers?

Mr. CALDER: I have not the information. I think, after all, we understand the situation. It has been suggested to me by the deputy minister to strike out all the words after "Ottawa" in the 15th line, as he did not know what the results would be if these words were left in. He thinks it far better, and I agree with him, merely to confirm the appointments, and then let the law take its course. The words it is proposed to strike out are:

and the officers so appointed shall be deemed to be permanent or temporary officers of the Civil Service according to the nature and intent of the appointment in each case.

To leave these words in, might lead to further complications. I therefore move to strike them out.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. VIEN: Have complaints been received by the Government from the Auditor General in regard to appointments of a similar character made in other departments?

Mr. CALDER: I cannot say.

Mr. VIEN: Can any member of the Government now present tell us? There should be some one who is informed on the subject.