

given jurisdiction over appointments to the staffs of these commissions.

Mr. McKENZIE: I can readily understand that a temporary commission gets its officers through the Civil Service Commission, but when that commission expires, is a servant appointed to it still an officer of the Government?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No.

Mr. McKENZIE: This commission is merely temporary, and when the commission expires the staff goes out with it. They are no longer in the Civil Service because they happened to have been servants of this commission?

Mr. ROWELL: My hon. friend is quite right in that, and it was to meet that situation that subsection 2 of section 5 was incorporated. That gives power, with the approval of the Civil Service Commission, to transfer any employees to the new commission, thus making provision for the very situation that my hon. friend has mentioned.

Mr. McKENZIE: Does it provide that there shall be a selection made and the ordinary methods adopted for the purpose of obtaining a new staff, or will they merely be transferred to this new department?

Mr. ROWELL: We shall transfer such persons as are recommended by the commission with the consent of the Civil Service Commission. No one can be transferred except on those two conditions: (1) the recommendation of the new commission, and (2) the consent of the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. McKENZIE: I can readily understand that a person who is a civil servant in a regular department can be transferred to this commission. But if a person has been employed by this temporary commission and the commission is dissolved, I submit, his relation to the service of the commission and the Government is dissolved with it, and that he is no more an officer of the Government than if he had never been in its employ at all. I do not think it is the idea of the Civil Service Commission that you can take that man, without advertising for help, and plant him in a permanent position under this statute. This is a new staff and you have to get from the outside, over and above the men that may be transferred from a permanent department, the employees that you require; you must ask for them in the regular way and they must be advertised for and selected by the Civil Service Commission.

I do not admit that temporary employment by a temporary commission gives to an employee, under the law, the right to be transferred.

Mr. ROWELL: What my hon. friend says may be quite true as a matter of law, but he will see that the old commission does not go out of existence until the new one is created. The object is to continue the work which has hitherto been carried on by the other commission. The other commission, carrying it on during the past four years, has inevitably secured a number of employees who have developed a high degree of efficiency and skill in this work and in supervising the work of all the departments of Government. They have a general knowledge of all the departments which the employees in any one department, no matter how efficient they may be, have not. While these men have no claim to be transferred, yet in the public interest, having regard to the necessity of carrying on the work efficiently, the Government deems it desirable that there should be some provision whereby those possessing this ability can be transferred. That is the object of subsection 2. It does not follow that all will be transferred; it only follows that those whom the new commission may desire, and the Civil Service Commission recommend, will be transferred in order that the work of the new commission may be as efficient as possible.

Mr. McKENZIE: That is the way we used to overcome the provisions of the Civil Service Act; that is by putting a man's name in the Estimates and saying: "Notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act." We have the Civil Service Commission, and it has been the boast of the Government, to the satisfaction of a great many people in the country, that nobody would get into the Civil Service except through that commission. Yet, at the very threshold of its operation we are passing an Act of Parliament by which we are taking a group of people—do not know who they are—and dumping them into a new department—because this is nothing else than a department—without complying with the Civil Service Act.

Mr. ROWELL: I cannot add anything to what I said. They are now in the Government employ and cannot be transferred without the consent of the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. McKENZIE: Thousands of men and women were temporarily employed during the war, and now the departments are