

left as wide open as it has been and is now for the reason just advanced by the hon. senator from Marshfield when he asked the question whether the hon. Secretary of State supposed for a moment that parliament had not power to change the law whenever they thought proper to do so. There is an actual provision providing for that, so that this clause is apparently calculated to deceive the public. I hope this may be the last opportunity I shall have to call the attention of the Senate to the manner in which the present government administers the public funds in connection with the Civil Service. I am surprised that the hon. senator from Wellington has taken these evasions of the law so calmly and coolly. I am surprised that the ghost of the former James McMullen of the House of Commons does not haunt about midnight the dreams of the hon. senator from Wellington. I would have expected to have heard him in the sonorous tones in which he generally addresses the House, denouncing the practice which prevailed in the past and which is so intensified in the estimates before us.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The present government are following a bad example. Turn up the statutes anywhere and you find items with these words 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary.'

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I said that.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman assumed those sums are paid out. In half a million of such votes there may not be over \$100 paid out, but in order to justify payments to a single clerk who happens to be in a department, those words have to be added. I turn to the Supply Bill of 1894, when the hon. gentleman himself was premier, and I find the following amounts appear, 'Notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary':

Department of Justice \$2,455.
Marine and Fisheries \$43,850.
Printing and Stationery \$27,409.
Customs \$36,000.

Then on the next page, 'Civil Government \$1,400,' and so on. Then I find, turning over another page, additional pay to persons

permanently employed in the public service, &c., under the heading of 'canals,' \$15,000. It does not follow because large amounts appear that any considerable portion of them will be paid out. We have to take the bulk sum to pay outside officials who have no status, in order to pay them an extra amount sometimes, and we have to put in those words. From time immemorial it has been done that way.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—The Bill before the House has not come a moment too soon. When I was in the House of Commons, I criticized the extra pay to civil servants where these words 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act,' appeared, but still it went on from year to year, and no doubt it has increased since. Civil servants are never done demanding, begging, seeking, to get increases of salary or allowance of pay for extra work. It appears to be a disease that attacks every man when he is appointed to the civil service, and he never ceases pressing his claim in every way he possibly can for some increased allowance. That has been the policy adopted by the civil service as a class for many years, and I hope that the passage of this civil service Bill will put an absolute stop to such appeals. The old government was bothered in that way no doubt. The hon. Secretary of State has pointed out that it has been the custom for years to grant increased allowances under the item 'Notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act.' I repeat, this Bill to amend the Civil Service Act has not come in a moment too soon. I regret it does not go further, but it is a step in the right direction. I hope we will go on improving its provisions and that eventually it will be extended to the outside service, and that all branches of the service will be made subject to the Act. It cannot be done a moment too soon. I hope some provision will be made by which any civil servant shall forfeit his position if it can be proved that he made application personally or through others for an increase of salary or allowance. We want to put a stop to all that sort of thing. In the past, a large portion of the time of ministers was taken up answering letters of friends urging ap-