

Civil Service Commission in New Zealand.

A commission has been appointed to inquire into, and report on, the efficient working of the unclassified departments of the public service.

The commission sets out that it is expedient that inquiry shall be made into the working of the various unclassified departments of the public service, with a view to simplifying procedure, preventing duplication, and generally adopting such methods as will increase the efficiency of the service, ensure the due recognition of merit, and quicken the despatch of business. It has been urged that there is need in the public interest for more co-operation between departments in their business relations, and for better facilities to be given and received in order to remove unnecessary formality and delay, having regard to the fact that they are all engaged in state business.

Scope of Investigation.

In view of the above considerations, the Governor appoints the commissioners to inquire into and report as to the following matters in the case of each unclassified department:—

1. Whether its system of working is on the simplest and most effective lines, and, if not, in what respects, with special reference to:—

- (a) bookkeeping.
- (b) accounting.
- (c) correspondence.
- (d) the custody of securities and records.
- (e) the receipt and expenditure of money.
- (f) discipline.

2. Whether by unnecessary routine work, overlapping circumlocution, or otherwise, business is hampered or delayed.

3. Whether in its business relations and dealings with other departments full co-operation exists and all reasonable facilities are given and received without avoidable formality or delay.

4. Whether the staff is adequate to the work of the department.

5. How best to secure promotion by merit, whether by the adoption of periodical departmental efficiency or promotion tests, or otherwise.

6. Generally (but without dealing with individual cases) whether the salaries paid to the members of the staff are such as to give them fair pay for their work and the state fair work for their pay.

7. As to the classification (but without referring to individual cases) whether the system of classifying the whole of the staff is calculated to promote zeal and give full play to ability.

8. Whether classification should apply only to officers in receipt of salaries under £200 per annum, leaving subsequent promotion to be based on merit and efficiency, and whether the salaries now paid to public servants are such as to attract to the public service and to retain in it the best ability in the country.

The commission is authorized and empowered to conduct its inquiry at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, and to examine persons, books and records.

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