

effect of this legislation will be to give to the minister exclusive jurisdiction in the appointment of officers.

Mr. CALDER: No.

Mr. VIEN: It is as clear as daylight to any lawyer, and I am sure the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty) will bear me out in this respect. Under the old Act you made an exception; you could not appoint such officials as were under the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission; you do not repeat the same proviso in this statute, and the effect of the new statute will be, in the first place, to legalize the appointments made by the minister instead of by the Civil Service Commission, and secondly, to remove from the Civil Service Commission all appointments in the department.

Mr. CALDER: It certainly cannot have that effect, because under the Civil Service Act of 1918 the whole Outside Service and all employees of the Government were brought under the jurisdiction of the commission. My hon. friend will find that in many of the statutes relating to departmental work, power was given to the minister of the department to make certain appointments, but all that has since been done away with, and the entire Civil Service, both inside and outside, has been brought under the jurisdiction of the commission. So repealing these words will not restore to the minister the right to make appointments.

Mr. FIELDING: If the members of the Government in this, as in so many other matters, have made a few blunders and have to come to Parliament to correct them, I have every desire to assist my hon. friend in making the correction, but when he undertakes to say that appointments were made irregularly by former governments my curiosity is aroused, and I want to know what has happened in all these years to enable appointments that were made irregularly ten years ago to be covered up. The Auditor General cannot just have awakened to the fact that these men have been getting money illegally during all these years. My hon. friend had better say that the blunders have been made in recent years, and not try to camouflage the situation. He must not imagine things—the Speaker will not allow it. Let him say frankly that the appointments were made irregularly by this Government.

Mr. CALDER: I am quite willing to leave the Bill in committee, but I think I

[Mr. Vien.]

could show my hon. friend that appointments of this class were made in the years 1908, 1909 and 1910, and that the first sinners in this respect were not the Administration that came into power in 1911.

Mr. FIELDING: How is it that the Auditor General is only now objecting to paying these men?

Mr. CALDER: On account of certain provisions in the Civil Service Act, the Auditor General recently, and only recently, has notified the departments concerned, and so has the commission. How it was discovered, or by whom I do not know, but I do know that both the commission and the Auditor General have insisted that these appointments which were irregularly made should be legalized. Otherwise, these civil servants will be left in a very awkward position, as regards promotions, increases of salary, and matters of that kind.

Mr. FIELDING: My hon. friend says that these troubles have arisen on account of something in the recent Civil Service Act, not on account of something that happened years ago. Therefore, he ought not to say that it is because of appointments that were made many years ago when another government was in power. He is simply trying to camouflage the matter by talking of appointments made by governments of former years. These are errors that have been made by him or by his friends, and he need not try to get behind another government. The Auditor General is too faithful an official to go on for years paying men irregularly, and too sensible an official to expect the men to repay the money at this late date.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It would save time if the hon. minister would plead guilty, and we will simply say: Go in peace, and sin no more.

Mr. CALDER: I will not say that. I am not trying to camouflage the situation in any sense at all. It is only recently that the Auditor General and the Civil Service Commission have insisted that this state of affairs shall be put an end to. When the Auditor General in 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1912 paid the salaries of these men, I do not know; that is for him to say. There is no question at all in my judgment that these appointments were made irregularly, and that the matter has gone on for a period of years. I understand that the Civil Service Commission will not deal with these men as with other