

000 employees that my hon. friend has referred to includes employees on public works throughout Canada who have been employed for short periods. They are included in the list of temporary employees.

Mr. JACOBS: Why is that?

Mr. ROWELL: Because the law as it stands requires it, and it has also this real function: If the Civil Service law is properly administered by the commission—and I am sure the commission is putting forth its utmost efforts to administer it honestly—this prevents the abuse, to which my hon. friend has referred, of putting on a large number of employees on a public work at election time. It is intended to be a curb on unnecessary employment in the public service in any form whatsoever.

Mr. JACOBS: So the Government at election time would know how many thousand men were employed on different public works throughout the country. In what way would that be a curb on the abuse?

Mr. ROWELL: The commission would have a complete record of these employees.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): There was always a complete record on the payroll of the departments, so they have no more complete record now than before. I am not sure that I quite understood my hon. friend. Say the Public Works Department are building a bridge, and that there is a stonemason there cutting stone. If he works more than thirty days, has he to have an appointment from the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. ROWELL: No. The appointment has to be reported to the commission by the department, and the man cannot be employed beyond thirty days unless the Civil Service Commission approves. It acts as a check upon employment of unnecessary labour on any government work.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): It does apply to such a man as I have mentioned?

Mr. ROWELL: Yes. If an ordinary workman is employed for more than thirty days on a government work carried on by one of the departments, it must be reported to the commission, and the man cannot be continued beyond the thirty days without the commission's approval.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): What do the commission do when they receive the report of his employment? Do they examine the man and see if he is capable, and then re-appoint him? Or what do they do?

Mr. ROWELL: I believe the procedure is this: Under ordinary conditions, unless there was some reason that would lead them to make a special inquiry, they would accept the certificate of the engineer in charge of the work that the man was actually required and was competent for the work he had to do.

Mr. McKENZIE: Is there any such provision in the Bill? I do not profess to be familiar with the Civil Service Act, but it would strike me as extraordinary that you could not get a few labourers or any number of labourers on a public building or some other work without having to go through this routine.

Mr. ROWELL: It is simply because they are in the public service. The Act is so broad that it covers all employees in the public service, therefore, as they are in the public service, they have to come under the jurisdiction of the commission in the way I have mentioned.

Mr. McKENZIE: Last year, I think it was, when we were dealing with the War Purchasing Commission, I asked my hon. friend how many employees there were in that branch, and if my memory serves me correctly, he replied that there were about 300 men and women. Is that commission still intact, and are these temporary employees still on the pay-roll of the Government?

Mr. ROWELL: My hon. friend is in error in his recollection. The figure I gave was somewhere between 200 and 300, as being the number employed in all the purchasing branches of all departments of the Government. I am not sure of the exact number employed in the purchasing commission, but I think it is somewhere between 30 and 40. The figure I gave last year related to all the purchasing branches of all departments of the Government.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am sorry to discover my memory is not quite correct, and equally sorry that the minister was not as explicit as he usually is in giving the number last year. Taking it as 40 or 50, are these still temporary employees?

Mr. ROWELL: Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE: When will the minister be able to dispose of them?

Mr. BURNHAM: What does the commission intend to do in the long run with regard to men who heretofore have been entitled to receive the pay prevalent in the