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The Debate on the Increase.

Some Extracts on the Discussion of May 12th in the House of Commons, when the Bill to Increase Civil Service Salaries by \$150 Received its Second Reading.

The Case of the Thirty-Five.

MR. FOSTER. There are 35 who get no increase at all, and these presumably have been doing good service. The increase was granted because of the insufficiency of salaries and the increased scale of living, and it happens that there are 35 employees who have had to contend with all these difficulties and who get no help from this Act.

MR. FISHER. A deputation of civil servants approached the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues and asked whether something could not be done in that way, and the reply was that we could not see any logical way which would deal with their case on any broad general principle. These 35 officials were on the 1st of September at the maximum of their respective classes, and if we were to disturb the arrangement in the Act and pay to any of the officials a higher salary than the maximum salary of their class we would be paying an officer a higher salary than was considered ample, under the scheme, for the work done in that class. We did not think it well to introduce that disturbing element. In some cases men have been a long time at the maximum of their class and consequently have not had an increase, but under the new civil service classi-

fication the maximum of the class was raised in almost every case by \$100 at least and in some cases more, and so the great majority of those who were at the maximum before are receiving an increase of at least \$100 out of this \$150, and consequently are not in that number of 35. Under these circumstances we did not see our way to making any change; but we did say to the delegation of the Civil Service Association which waited on the Government that their cases would be carefully considered in the way of promotion in the future, and that if it seemed to be justifiable to give them promotion, by reason of the necessities of the service, or by reason of their own qualifications and character and their capacity for higher work, and we thought it should be done, the ministers would consider the fact that they did not get their increase now, and when an opportunity came would carefully consider their claims for promotion. This is the most that we felt we could do, and I have no hesitation in repeating on the floor of Parliament, not the exact words, but the spirit of what was said to the association.

The Morale of the Service.

Replying to the statement that the departments were over-manned, and