

and we have not been able to arrange with the Civil Service Commission for a board to go to the west to interview them yet. I hope to do that within six weeks.

Q. I am glad to hear that, because I think at the present time these men have a legitimate ground for complaint.—A. We are aiming to have a board sit in Winnipeg to hear about 10 or 20 applicants from the prairie provinces the first week of July.

Q. How many applications have you had in the last year?—A. That is a question only the Civil Service Commission could answer.

Mr. HEMSLEY: I think in the foreign service officer competition there must have been something over 1,000.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: How many of those passed their examinations?

Mr. HEMSLEY: About 40 have been accepted.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Out of 1,000?

Mr. HEMSLEY: We have 68 more of this group to interview. They are the men who wrote the written examinations last November and were successful in the written examinations.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Who conducted the interviews after those young men passed the examinations?

The WITNESS: The exact procedure is this: the application is examined, and a simple written examination is given. We suspended the rather more difficult examination system which we had in force before the war because it seemed quite unfair to ask people who had been in the armed forces perhaps for five years to pass a fairly severe examination of academic standards. We substituted for it a simple examination designed to show whether the candidate had any capacity for thinking for himself and expressing what he thought, and very little more. On that basis we were able to decide that a large number of candidates were obviously unsuited, and we dropped them. The remainder are brought up for interview by the board which the Civil Service Commission and ourselves jointly cooperate on. References are secured.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Who are your representatives on the board?

The WITNESS: It has been such a big job that we vary the representation from time to time. Ten or a dozen senior officers in the department will sit on the boards from time to time. There is no other way to handle it. I myself sat on the earlier boards and found it was physically impossible to attend all the boards.

Mr. COTE: The examination of the Civil Service Commission having been passed by the applicant, do you think it is possible for anyone who has not a university degree or academic training to cope with these examinations and get into the service?

The WITNESS: I do not think I have actually seen the last paper we had, but I have set one or two of them myself. The main test was to ask the applicants to write an essay on a choice of about ten different subjects on widely selected scientific, literary, historical and military subjects. We always put military subjects for those coming from the forces. They are written in English or in French, and they have to write the examination in, I think, three hours. That is the simple test, and it is surprisingly effective. We also started a second paper. Perhaps Mr. Soward would explain.

Mr. SOWARD: In the examinations held in October and November we had an essay and then a paper, also of three hours' duration, in which there was a choice of questions. One question was on the government of Canada; another group of questions was on current events of a well known nature, certain personalities, certain problems. These were all designed so that those who