

Mr. VIEN: Are they temporary or permanent employees?

Mr. CALDER: Some would be temporary and some permanent.

Mr. VIEN: In the Outside Service.

Mr. CALDER: Yes.

Mr. VIEN: All of them?

Mr. CALDER: They were all supposed to have been appointed in the Outside Service, but they are all here at Ottawa.

Mr. VIEN: How could that be?

Mr. CALDER: I do not know. It simply is so.

Mr. VIEN: The minister says that these were supposed to be in the Outside Service. Could the minister tell us the character of the duties of these officers? Could he give at least some instances how employees of that department in Ottawa could be classed as employees in the Outside Service?

Mr. CALDER: I would imagine you could have a case like this. They would take the general vote, for example, for looking after forestry in the Interior Department, and they would appoint some person and pay his salary out of that general vote, but he would do his work in Ottawa instead of doing it in the field somewhere. The same thing would apply as regard irrigation work. I grant that these appointments should all have been made in the Inside Service, because the work in most cases has been in Ottawa. Under the Civil Service Act of 1908, they should have been appointed through the Civil Service Commission; but as I have intimated, in several departments of Government, many appointments have been made by both Governments contrary to the true intent and spirit of that Act. It is for the purpose of clearing up that situation that this Bill is introduced.

Mr. VIEN: No one has been appointed since May 24, 1918?

Mr. CALDER: None since the Civil Service Act of 1918 was assented to.

Mr. FIELDING: If appointments of that nature were made under the Liberal Government of years ago, has it taken my hon. friend all these years to find this out and to make the correction?

Mr. CALDER: It is only recently that the Civil Service Commission and the Auditor General drew the attention of the department to the fact that these appoint-

ments made prior to 1918 must be legalized and made regular, otherwise they could not deal with them under the provisions of the Civil Service Act.

Mr. FIELDING: But in the meantime, the men have been receiving their pay. That is the most vital point. They have not been all these years without their money.

Mr. CALDER: That is quite true, but it is only recently that the Civil Service Commission and the Auditor General have notified the department that these appointments must be legalized.

Mr. FIELDING: There surely cannot be any trouble about the old appointments. The appointees have been there for years; they have been drawing their salaries; they are growing old and venerable. Their appointments do not need to be legalized.

Mr. CALDER: I am stating simply what has been told to me.

Mr. VIEN: What is the particular provision of section 79 of the Dominion Lands Act, chapter 20 of the statutes of 1908, which is proposed to be repealed?

Mr. CALDER: The old section 79 reads, as it appears in the 1908 statutes:

The minister shall have the administration and management of all lands of the Dominion to which this Act applies, including school lands; and he may appoint such officers as are required for the purposes of such administration and management and whose appointment is not provided for by the Civil Service Act or by paragraph (h) of section 76 of this Act, and may define their duties.

Under the Civil Service Act of 1918, we have taken away from the minister all appointments, so that it is not necessary that that portion of the old section should stand.

Mr. VIEN: But there is something more. I should like the minister to be candid enough to give the information. Under the existing statute, the minister is of opinion, advised as he is by his officials, that appointments were wrongly made—at least there is a serious doubt as to the legality of the appointments of these officers; in the opinion of his officials these appointments should not have been made by the minister himself; they should have been made by the Civil Service Commission. Section 79 of the present statute says that the minister may appoint officers whose appointment is not provided for by the Civil Service Commission. Now we repeal this entirely, and the