

Commissioner Shortt's Evidence

(Continued from last issue)

Q. That is males?—A. No, males and females. Of the three hundred appointments, seventy-five would represent males.

Q. Then, 75 to 100 would be the limit of returned soldiers that could be placed annually in the Inside Service?—A. Unless they replaced the women.

Q. And in the Outside Service have you any idea how many annual appointments are made?—A. No, we simply hold the examinations. We qualify, as a rule, about one thousand a year.

Q. As a means of finding employment for returned soldiers, the Civil Service offers a very limited absorptive power?—A. Yes.

By Hon. Mr. Murphy:

Q. That is the Inside Service?—A. And the Outside, too, that is the regular Services only.

Q. What distinction do you draw between the "regular Services" and the others?—A. The three regular outside services are the Post Office, Customs and Inland Revenue. The outside employees of the Public Works, Railways and Canals, Justice, and all these Departments—

Q. Interior?—A. Yes,—are simply Government employees.

Q. In all these services there are a very large number of employees?—A. At present there are no tests for these, anybody can be appointed.

By the Chairman:

Q. That is known as the Outside Service?—A. No, I beg pardon, that is the Irregular or Miscellaneous Service.

Q. Have you any idea how many appointments are made in the Irregular Service?—A. No. It would be necessary to inquire of the different Departments to obtain that information. At any rate it is perfectly true that in the regular Service the number is very limited, and in the higher grades, embracing the highly specialized classes of official, the returned soldiers will present probably ten times as many fully qualified persons as can be taken in. That being the case, why should not the best of them be taken.

By Mr. Middlebro:

Q. Would it be proper that a man's service in military life should count in his Civil Service career?—A. We have stipulated with most of the Departments that in the matter of promotion the employee shall not suffer because he has gone to the front, and we have objected to certain promotions because they would seem to conflict with that policy.

Q. Then the civil servant's military service does count in the matter of promotion?—A. Yes.

By Hon. Mr. Murphy:

Q. You have no record of appointments made under section 22?—A. No. You would have to go to the Departments for that information.

By the Chairman:

Q. A suggestion was made here to-day, by Mr. Cameron, I think, that where a man applied for a position in the Civil Service and was selected, he should be given credit or the amount of time he had served in the Army. That is to say, if a man had served 18 months in the Army and should be admitted into the Civil Service, he should receive the pay to which he would be entitled after 18 months in the Civil Service?—A. That, perhaps, is feasible, but one of the difficulties to be overcome is this: Most of the returned soldiers who have been offered employment through our Board and have rejected it, have done so on the ground that they could not live on \$40 a month. I think they are quite right.

Q. Suppose a returned soldier who is offered \$40 a month had, say, his 18 months' military service recognized, what would his salary amount to?—A. It would be the difference between \$500 and \$550.

Q. It would be about \$45 a month?—A. It would be about \$44. The low salary is one of the difficulties we have to deal with now. We have never yet, I may say, obtained enough men in the Third Division to fill the requirements of the Government at a salary of \$500, the consequence being that women have had to take their places, and that is why we appoint to such positions two women to one man.

Q. Do you say that is because of the lowness of the salary?—A. Yes, because of the lowness of the salary.

Q. Would it in your judgment, demoralize the Service to fix a minimum wage at which a soldier returned from service overseas might enter the Public Service?—A. Not at all. The Civil Service Commissioners think the minimum should be fixed.

Q. And raise it only for the returned soldier?—A. Not for the returned soldier only, but if my prediction is at all correct, the returned soldiers are the only class of people that will receive the advantage

(To be continued)

Its Sum.

"There is one thing I was wondering about the stocking bank of the country."

"What's that?"

"What it would foot up."