

and means is a very difficult one, and one which, as I am sure the Government realize, requires a tremendous amount of work in its solution. I am sure that all honourable gentlemen in this House realize that it is desirable at the present time to assist the Government in every possible way in carrying on the business of the country and in putting forward every possible effort to attain the object and end that we have in view; and any criticism raised by honourable gentlemen on either side of this Chamber will be raised only for the purpose of assisting the Government as far as possible in the work they have in hand, whether it be criticism of their legislation or criticism of the particular action that they have taken in the execution of their work.

In this Chamber we have at the present time a large addition of members, and I am sure that the new members will realize that the object of the Senate is to revise, and perhaps consider more carefully and deliberately and with that mature judgment and perhaps greater experience which a large number of members of this body have had in such matters, the legislation that is introduced by the Government in either House of Parliament. For that reason the criticism offered in this Chamber with regard to proposed legislation should be more independent and more deeply considered than possibly it is in the other House.

Now, I propose to refer for a few minutes to one or two points in the Speech. Mention has been made in it of the question of the Civil Service. An Order in Council has been passed dealing with this matter. I have only had time to peruse that Order in Council rather cursorily, but so far as I have been able to study it, the principle of the Order in Council does not indicate any new policy but seems to be on the same lines as those of the measure which was brought down by the Government of the time in 1908, when the Civil Service Act was amended and a commission was appointed for the purpose of dealing with the Inside Service. At that time the principle of appointment after an examination and proper consideration of the candidates' qualifications by the Commission, and the promotion of members of the Inside Service for merit and after further examination, was adopted, and we hoped that that condition of things would be steadily carried on, whatever Government was in power. Unfortunately, after the change of

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

Government in 1911, it was not apparently considered satisfactory to administer the Inside Service in the way that had been started, and the Act of 1908 became more or less a dead letter. The Order in Council now brought down by the Government, and which foreshadows further legislation, extends the principle of the Act of 1908 to the Outside Service and further brings in the question of the men returned from the front. Of course, the necessity of dealing with men who have returned from the front is due to the conditions of the present time. In 1908 there was no problem of the returned soldier. I think we all agree that everything possible should be done to find positions for returned men, if they are qualified to perform the duties required, and we approve of the Order in Council which states:

The Prime Minister further recommends that under the powers conferred by the War Measures Act, 1914, and under all other powers vested in your Excellency in Council, the following regulation be enacted:

In all competitive examinations held under the Civil Service Amendment Act, 1908, persons who have been on active service overseas in the military or naval forces of His Majesty, or any of the Allies of His Majesty, who have left such service with an honourable record, or who have been honourably discharged, and who obtain sufficient marks to pass such examination, shall, irrespective of the marks they have obtained, be placed in the order of merit on the list of successful candidates above all other candidates.

That places the returned soldier in a position ahead of the ordinary members of the Civil Service, and, I think, rightly too. I am sure that we all agree with the honourable gentleman from the Gulf (Hon. Mr. L'Espérance) that the relief to members of Parliament of not having to deal with the question of patronage will be very great, and I hope that they will all support the effort of the Government to make the Civil Service a profession which any man in the country will be proud to enter, and which he may enter with the feeling that he has before him a career in which he may hope to serve his country, and that when the time of life arrives when he can no longer perform his duties he will be enabled to retire with honour and credit to himself, knowing that his life has been spent in giving his best services to his country when he was able.

The other measures that will be brought before the House can be better dealt with when they are submitted; but I want to draw the attention of the Government at the present time to the question of food control. It is one that is exercising the minds of the people in all parts of the