

maximum salary; and these persons, after one year's service, are deemed to be permanently appointed in the Inside Service. The effect of this has been that a number of persons have been brought into the service at high salaries over the heads of the regular staff. When the ministers leave, the ex-secretaries remain, and work has to be found for them, and a succession of ministers may result in very much over-manning the highest-paid positions; and in some cases it has been impossible to provide suitable work. Besides the waste of public money, this has had a bad effect on those who have long and faithfully served in the departments, and who may be receiving much less salary. It is now proposed that a minister may bring in any person as his secretary at such salary as Parliament may provide, and when the minister leaves the secretary will be no longer employed. If the minister selects a member of the Civil Service, such person will be entitled to additional salary not exceeding \$600.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The secretary does not pass any examination?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No; so he goes out of office with his minister.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I think this is a step in the right direction. I remember that I opposed the measure to which the honourable gentleman has referred, which allowed the Governor in Council to give a private secretary a very high salary and to place him in a high grade. As the honourable gentleman has told the House, there are several, I think, of these ex-secretaries now drawing pay largely in excess of the salaries drawn by civil servants who were in the service long before these ex-secretaries came there. I am glad that the Government are retracing their steps.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: What is the maximum paid to a minister's secretary at the present time?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: \$2,800.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: There was a discussion in another place the other night, and I understood that it was \$2,800 and \$600, making \$3,400.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: That may be done if a minister should select for his secretary an officer employed in the Civil Service receiving \$2,800. He can add \$600 to his salary.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: This was a new man.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Unless sanctioned by Parliament, I am unaware of the amount exceeding \$2,800.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I do not see how you are going to keep from overmanning the service. Even if you have no more than enough when a man is selected as private secretary, you must fill his place. Whether to appoint the secretary from the outside or take a man from the service, you have another man anyway. Are you going to get rid of adding to the service by reason of appointing a private secretary from among the civil servants? If you do, you must be overmanned already.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: That admittedly is the case.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: In that case, of course, if you get them to appoint their private secretaries from the service, you are doing the proper thing.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is proposed to start the weeding-out process before very long.

Section 49 was agreed to.

Section 50 was agreed to.

On section 51—census and election audit employees:

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Does that mean that all temporary men must pass a competitive examination?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, that is to say, they may become permanent afterwards.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: They cannot be employed temporarily unless they pass an examination?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: There is a special examination for that class.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: All temporary employees must undergo an examination?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: For the purposes set out in clause 51.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: It is still possible under this perfected Act to employ temporary persons, as they do in post offices about Christmas time, without competitive examination.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I am informed that there are special tests for them; but workmen, for instance, or helpers on surveys, may be employed by their superior officers.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: And labourers?