

porary employee, saying to him: "You are a temporary employee and you had better do what you are told." It is a bad system, and it seems to be increasing year by year instead of lessening. I drew attention to this matter before, but I do not want the minister to overlook the fact that the Government seem, during the last two years, to have gone very far in the way of appointments of temporary employees. If it be bad practice, it ought to be stopped. I do not know whether the minister would entertain my proposal or not, but there should be some period of employment at the end of which a man should be entitled to the rights of an ordinary civil servant, if he is left in the service.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The committee will remember that the Civil Service Act provides a scale of compensation for all employees, and the purpose of this clause is simply to declare that temporary employees shall not participate in the different rates of compensation. Personally, I think that is a sensible provision, particularly at the present time. There are in the public service two classes of temporary employees. In years gone by, as my hon. friend (Mr. Sinclair, Guysborough) stated, persons were appointed to the public service temporarily, and they still remain in the service, but I do not think that there are a large number of that class. On the other hand, during the war a large number of persons were appointed to the public service temporarily, and within the next twelve months, I fancy between ten and fifteen thousand of these temporary employees will be released. These persons are to be found largely in the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and in certain branches of the Militia Department. The appointment of such large numbers to these two branches of the public service was unavoidable, but this condition of affairs should come to an end some time soon. I quite agree with my hon. friend that at some time in the future some arrangement should be made where temporary employees appointed many years ago should be made permanent. There are in the public service persons appointed twenty years ago who are technically but temporary employees, and some consideration should be given to such cases. It would be unfortunate to drop this clause at the present time when there are in the public service so many temporary employees, a large number of whom must be retired within a year or shortly afterwards. It would be

[Mr. Sinclair (Guysborough).]

well, therefore, to continue the clause as it stands.

Mr. McKENZIE: What is the necessity for this clause at all?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Some doubt has arisen as to whether or not temporary employees are entitled to the same rate of compensation as permanent employees. I did not know myself that there was any doubt about it. I suppose, however, that temporary employees have been claiming the same rates of compensation and the annual increase that permanent employees receive, and that this is merely to remove the doubt.

Mr. McKENZIE: Has the minister any idea of how many temporary employees there would be in any of the large departments—Public Works, for instance?

Mr. ROWELL: I have not the figures here, but I will try and get them and show them to my hon. friend. All the large departments have a large number of temporary employees, some of whom may be employed for years. Of course, the 22,000 employees that my hon. friend refers to covers all seasonal employees, those on the Welland Canal, for instance. Any one who is familiar with public works and the rate at which men go off and new come on would know that if you employ 22,000 men it does not mean that there are 22,000 new positions. On an important public work you may have a turn over two or three times in a season.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): My hon. friend does not think that labour on public works is appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. ROWELL: They have to be certified to by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Ordinary labourers employed on public works?

Mr. ROWELL: Yes.

Mr. JACOBS: Do they have to pass an examination?

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): My hon. friend does not mean that a gang of Italians employed for two or three days to dig a trench on some public work have to be certified by the commission?

Mr. ROWELL: Not unless they are required for a longer period than thirty days. Where the period of employment is longer than that, the names must be reported to the Civil Service Commission and the 22,-