

it as well as I could. First, is this amendment intended to cover persons at present in the civil service who may be transferred to the commission? The second question arises out of a few words which I caught as the chairman was reading the amendment, that where an employee leaves the civil service and is subsequently restored to it, under this clause his emoluments and rights are restored with his reappointment. I should like to ask if that is a correct interpretation of the provision.

Mr. ROGERS: In answer to the first question, as my hon. friend has surmised, the intention of this amendment is to permit the seconding, as it were, of permanent employees of the civil service to the national employment commission. So far as the second question is concerned, there was no intention to carry out the purpose which he suggested.

Mr. STEVENS: Has the point I raised been considered? If, as I surmised, though probably wrongly, it is possible to bring in someone who has resigned or otherwise left the service, and to restore him to his rights under the superannuation act and so forth, it is an important matter and should be given careful consideration. I know that in the past civil servants who have left the service and returned to it, upon attempting to have their rights restored have experienced great difficulty; in fact I think it is entirely prevented by law, although I am speaking only from memory. If this amendment should accomplish what I understood it to do, I think the committee ought to be well aware of it and understand its full meaning. I may be entirely wrong, but I just gathered that from the reading of the amendment.

Mr. ROGERS: That certainly was not the intention in having the amendment drafted. I might say that the amendment in its present form is in precisely the same terms as a similar clause which was inserted in the national harbours board bill. Our one object was to make it possible for the national employment commission to utilize, should it so desire, the services of the permanent employees of the civil service. There was no intention through the amendment to make it possible for those who had previously resigned from the civil service to come back to the civil service and resume their former status.

Mr. BENNETT: I think it is quite clear that the amendment does not accomplish that purpose. The words are "in the event of his being retired from his office or position under this act." So that the point is covered; it applies only to those who come in under this

act to work under the commission, and in the event of their retiring they get the same treatment as if they had remained with the civil service; or if it is so desired they may continue and get another position in the civil service equal to that which they gave up.

Mr. CAHAN: May I suggest to the Prime Minister that during the previous five years the practice, which I think was an excellent one, grew up by which if the government or a minister intended to suggest important amendments to public bills, the proposed amendments were printed in the votes and proceedings of the previous day so that there was an opportunity to consider them in relation to the sections as they then stood. I think it was very useful and very helpful.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I agree entirely with my hon. friend. I would say to him that the amendment which is now before the house was read on Friday evening last, and appears in Hansard. It does not appear in just the place in which my hon. friend has suggested it might have appeared, namely in the votes and proceedings, but the government assumed that appearing in Hansard would meet the purpose my hon. friend has in view.

Mr. BENNETT: Is there no provision for salary?

Mr. ROGERS: I was going to refer to that. The right hon. leader of the opposition, referring to section 5, asked if provision was to be made for payment of the secretary of the commission. It is the intention that the secretary of the commission and other employees shall be paid, and I would assume that section 10 would cover that, although I am open to correction on that point. If section 10 does not cover it, it would obviously be desirable to make special provision for the purpose.

Mr. BENNETT: I would point out that the commissioners may be paid such fees or compensation for their services as the governor in council may from time to time determine as well as actual travelling and living expenses. With respect to the secretary I was only asking for information why that was not done. "There shall be a secretary of the commission who shall be appointed by the governor in council and who shall hold office during pleasure." I thought it was necessary to provide that he should be paid in the same way as when anybody else is appointed. The power to appoint, I think, does not involve the power to pay, unless provided for.