

Though qualified by the words—

Then the clause comes in 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act' and add:

Nor any words to the like effect.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Does my hon. friend really think that by putting in these words it will deprive parliament of the power of inserting words that will give a similar meaning?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, but it will show our intention.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I may be altogether mistaken about this, but it will be remembered that certain deputy heads have been in the habit of receiving pay beyond the pay given to an ordinary deputy. There is the deputy Minister of Justice, the deputy Minister of Railways and the deputy Minister of Finance. It seems to me that some serious difficulty may arise in giving these gentlemen the additional amounts which it is proposed to give them, under the wording of this clause. I do not know how you are going to vote the \$1,000 extra or the \$2,000, as the case may be, to any one of these deputies if this clause is to be operative.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There is provision for it being done by special vote. It seems to me that the four lines might be stricken out with advantage.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The vote will already have been given and they will have got that salary under Acts we have passed, so that it will not interfere with them.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—This is adding a clause to the Civil Service Act intentionally to protect the government against themselves.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—Yes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—They have been violating the law.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Like other governments.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Using the word 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary,'

and they say that such words, or words to that effect shall not guide or justify any such votes in the future; but they take the precaution just before adding that to provide that unless these special votes or special increases are given by a special vote of parliament. So that it opens the door. All they have to do in the future, if they desire to increase the salaries, instead of using the words 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary,' is to introduce a special Bill declaring that certain officials shall receive such and such increases of salaries. I desire to put upon record the use to which the words 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act' and words to that effect were used in the very last estimates which were laid before parliament. It will show when you look at the amounts, how careful the government have been to provide themselves with large sums of money to dispose of, independent of the laws which are on the statute-book at present. They are somewhat interesting because they exceed any other estimates that have ever been laid before parliament even by the present government. Turn to schedule A of the estimates of the sums granted to His Majesty, which by the by, is only a portion of the amount required for the financial year ending March 31, 1909, and to the purposes for which they are granted, you will find the use of those words to the following extent: Under the heading of 'Civil Government' you will find first, 'Salaries, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act,' \$37,253.12.

Then take the next item of Militia and Defence and they ask for \$55,572, and down a little lower you will find contingencies where they only ask for \$45,110.63. Then at the foot, the last one in the contingencies they change the wording that has been in use for years past, and they use the words: may be paid to members of the Civil Service notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary,' the sum of \$38,062.50. On that page alone you have placed at the disposal of the different departments no less than \$175,988.75, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service to the contrary.