

chairman's term of office past the age of sixty-five an item was also inserted in last year's Appropriation Bill.

Objections to "legislation by appropriation" have from time to time been voiced. It was decided to set the matter straight this session, and to make for the Civil Service Commissioners the same provisions regarding extensions in office and salary changes as apply in the case of deputy ministers.

Section 1 of the bill provides for the extension of a commissioner in office beyond the age limit of 65 years, for a period not exceeding five years. This is the same as the provision for deputy ministers, with the added proviso that a commissioner's extension must be on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Section 2 of the bill provides the same procedure for the adjustment of the salaries of commissioners as is now provided for deputy ministers. The salaries provided by the Act as it stands are \$10,000 for the chairman, and \$8,000 for the commissioners. Their actual salaries since April 1, 1949, have, under the Appropriation Act, been \$12,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

These are the only changes the bill makes in the Civil Service Act, which still preserves in full the independence of the Civil Service Commission and the freedom given it to operate the merit system.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Which commissioner is this measure aimed at?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: It applies to the Civil Service Commission.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: But I suppose that one of the commissioners is approaching the age of 65 years, and it seems desirable to keep him on.

Hon. Mr. Haig: One is over 65 years.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Those over the age limit are being kept on by order in council, I presume.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Does this apply to the chairman?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: He is a very good chairman.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I move, honourable senators, that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: Should this bill not properly be sent to the Civil Service Administration Committee?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Strictly speaking, my honourable friend is quite right, but by reason of the late stage of the session, I thought it would expedite matters if all legislation were referred to the one committee, namely, the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. Marcotte: Personally, I am quite agreeable to that procedure. I simply wished to inquire why it was not being referred to the Committee on Civil Service Administration.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: By this means there will be maximum consideration given to the measure.

The motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Salter A. Hayden moved the second reading of Bill 25, an Act to provide for the financial administration of the Government of Canada, the audit of the Public Accounts and the financial control of Crown Corporations.

He said: Honourable senators, as the title of this bill implies, the bill provides for the financial administration of the Government of Canada, for the audit of Public Accounts, and for the financial control of Crown corporations. The substantial provisions of quite a number of existing statutes have been consolidated in this bill. By reference to schedule E honourable senators will notice that no less than seven existing statutes are included in whole or in part in the measure now before us. I wish now to refer to only two of them.

The Department of Finance and Treasury Board Act is not wholly repealed, but the sections which remain unincorporated are those relating to the Royal Canadian Mint. The only other of the seven statutes which is not incorporated in its entirety in the bill is the Government Companies Operation Act. Certain sections of this Act are to be repealed and, in substance, appear in the new bill. Other sections, having to do with pension rights, the status of a government agency, and the right to sue and be sued are left outstanding. What may be their ultimate destiny one can only guess, but I venture to say that at a subsequent session of parliament some separate enactment will be introduced to deal, for instance, with the Royal Canadian Mint and with powers contained in the Government Companies Operation Act which are withheld from the consolidated bill before us.

It is not my intention, and I think honourable senators would prefer that I tell them so right away, to go into any detailed explanation of the operations of the public account-