

cause trouble and inflict hardship on good officials in this House. I rather think it would be better for the minister to give it further consideration before asking the committee to adopt it.

Mr. FISHER. I cannot conceive of any such trouble as my hon. friend alludes to. This change has not been made without consideration and it applies to the public service. The civil service has been a restricted term and the intention is to include all employees of the government, whether in the inside or outside service, for the purposes of this Act. I do not see where any danger can occur.

Mr. CONMEE. In the classification of the civil servants who are being brought under this Act the minister has said that the determining factor will be their present salaries, what consideration will be given to the merits and abilities of the several clerks in their classification and promotion?

Mr. FISHER. Section 6 provides for the present clerks being put in the new classification according to their standing to-day.

Mr. CONMEE. I asked whether in that regard salary alone or record and ability will be considered in making the classification. I understand it is not to be a competitive test.

Mr. FISHER. As a matter of fact if a clerk is to-day a first class clerk, whatever he is doing, he will go into a certain subdivision. If he is a second class clerk he will go into another subdivision. It is not a question of his work or anything but his position in the service.

Mr. FOSTER. I would call attention to subdivision 4 of section 6. You will remember my contention was that a large number of temporary clerks who had not passed any examination at all would be by that section drafted into the civil service, because whilst it is a rule that civil government contingencies should only be used for those who have passed the examination it is also a fact that quite a large number are being paid out of civil government contingencies who have not passed the civil service examination.

Mr. FISHER. I asked the Auditor General that question and his answer is:

With reference to those charged to civil government contingencies who have not passed the examination I find there are four in the Finance Department and one in the Governor General's Secretary's, five in all.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that all?

Mr. FISHER. That is what the Auditor General informs me.

Mr. FOSTER. My information goes a good deal farther than that.

Mr. FISHER. I asked the Auditor General to refer to the hon. gentleman's questions in the House and send me the facts.

Mr. BLAIN.

Mr. FOSTER. I think it would be an injustice to place any who have not passed the examination, by the mere fact that they have been employed contrary to the Act as we might say, into the civil service permanently. Any such clerks should pass the civil service examination before they are allowed to enter the permanent service.

Mr. FISHER. In view of the fact that we have been pretty constantly for many years admitting people into the service contrary to the Civil Service Act, I do not think it is worth while for the sake of these five to make any amendment to the Act.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Coming back to section 3, I am not very well satisfied, so far as my personal opinion goes, with the present form of it. The expression 'civil service' was defined by the Civil Service Act and therefore had a definite meaning. The expression 'public service' is not defined either by this Act or by the Civil Service Act. The exact meaning will have to be determined by some proper authority at some time if any question arises respecting that meaning and it seems to me that questions might very readily arise. Then, so far the employees of the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library are concerned, I am no more in favour of placing them in the outside service than I was in favour of placing them in the inside service. The Governor in Council could at any time include them by order in council in the inside service, and make every section of the Act apply to them.

Mr. FISHER. I would like to interrupt my hon. friend to say that by another amendment later on I propose to provide that whenever the Governor in Council may do anything, the Senate as to the officers of the Senate, the House as to the officers of the House, and both Houses as to the officers of the Library, would have to act.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That would perhaps answer that objection, although I think we shall be obliged to pay a little attention to section 47 as proposed to be amended. Then I would like to express once more my own personal opinion that the best way to deal with the officials of both Houses and the officials of the Library would be to provide in the statutes that each House could bring them in when it saw fit to the extent it saw fit.

Mr. FISHER. I think the amendment I am proposing does that.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If it does, then my criticism falls to the ground.

Mr. FISHER. I think practically I am carrying out the suggestion of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If it carries that out, I ought to be fully satisfied, and I will say no more about it until we come to section 47.