

public service a large number of persons who are classified as temporary employees. There have always been provisions in the Act for making temporary appointments, which have been renewed from time to time; and I believe that there are in the public service many hundreds who have been in the service for a very considerable period and are still classed as temporary. Under the reorganization which is now in progress, it is intended to straighten that matter out, and the Civil Service Commission will take up the question of those who have been in the position of temporary employees where the work they are doing is necessary and of a permanent character. I understand that their view is to recommend to the Government that all employees in that position should have their appointments made permanent, so as to get out of what I concede is an undesirable situation, viz: having in the public service a substantial number of persons, who are doing work really of a permanent character and who have been in the service for years, and are classed as temporary employees.

Mr. McKENZIE: Does subclause (6) not leave some discretion to the minister or deputy minister as regards promotion? If it is not intended to give the minister or the deputy, or whoever has to deal with the matter, some discretion, why is the word "deemed" inserted? If it is the intention that no discretion is to be exercised, why does the subclause not read?—

No temporary employee shall be eligible to receive any increase of compensation under the provisions of this Act.

That is, he has no inherent right to claim promotion. If the deputy minister thinks it is right for him to get promotion, it is open to the deputy minister to grant it.

Mr. ROWELL: That clause was inserted to clear up a doubt which appeared to have existed under the law as it now stands, that temporary employees were eligible for an increase in salary; it was inserted to declare that they should not be so eligible. I quite agree with my hon. friend that it could be framed the other way and would, I think, mean exactly the same thing.

Mr. FIELDING: Temporary clerks whose services have been particularly meritorious should be the first ones put into permanent positions. These men were, in many instances, capable of filling the positions, but they were not prepared to take the examination. Hundreds of them have been

in the service for years, and their case deserves a good deal of consideration.

Mr. ROWELL: Another class of case which I had in view in suggesting a possible amendment in this clause was this. Where the class of work a man is doing is of a temporary character, you do not wish to create a permanent position and put him in that position, because we all acknowledge that once a man is put into a position permanently, it is pretty difficult to get him out again.

Mr. JACOBS: He may die.

Mr. ROWELL: Yes, but not always. If the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean), who has had more to do with the framing of this legislation than any hon. member, thinks the amendment in the present form meets the case, I am quite willing to leave it just as it is here.

Mr. McKENZIE: The Minister of Railways (Mr. J. D. Reid) tells me that this is a misconstruction altogether; that there should be a period after the word "deemed," and that that word should read "damned"—"no temporary employee shall be damned". That is what the Minister of Railways says, and he is an older minister and member than the President of the Council. That should be a consideration.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): It is the Government that ought to be damned for making these numerous appointments of temporary employees. I understand the minister says that it is not desirable to have many of them, and if that be the case, I should like to know who was responsible for the appointment of 22,000-odd employees since the Armistice. Never before was there a period in the history of this country when ministers became so reckless in the matter of appointments. This practice of making so many temporary appointments is bad for the service. Some arrangement should be made whereby if a man is retained in the service for, say a year, he should be given a permanent position or go out of the service.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That would destroy the whole system.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): He should either go out of the service or become permanent. This is being used for all kinds of indirect and improper purposes throughout the country. An election comes along, and some man who has influence with the Government may threaten a tem-