

WILL REFORM CIVIL SERVICE

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militar with the departments with the view of making improvements and suggestions. In the meantime, the act provides that no person shall be appointed to any position in a department until the Commissioner has certified in writing that the person is qualified for the position, and that the salary attached is a reasonable remuneration for the services performed."

The same policy holds good with reference to the outside service where the salary exceeds \$1,000 a year. There is a special provision as to what is generally known as county officials, such as registrars, sheriffs, etc. There will be no change in the system whereby certain county officials are paid by way of fees, but their fitness for the position must be certified to by the Commissioner.

Appointment of Returned Soldiers.

No formal examinations are provided for, Mr. Lucas explained, because they must be for admittance to a certain class. In Ontario there is no large class of civil servants, unless it be young lady stenographers. He admitted that there could be a standard examination for them.

"The Civil Service Commissioner will be an important individual," commented Mr. Proudfoot.

One of the reasons given by the Attorney-General for only requiring a qualifying examination is that while many returned soldiers may be suitable for the work they may not have the highest standard and they could not, in consequence, be admitted to the service under another method. They would have to be considered in any Civil Service Bill that is based upon the civil service examination. The question of retirement from the service is also left untouched at this time, the Government preferring to await the recommendations of the new Commissioner, after he has become conversant with conditions.

Mr. Hartley Dewart asked Sir William Hearst if the revision of the rules of the House had been completed and if copies were ready for distribution. The Premier explained that two sessions ago a committee was appointed to revise the rules. A difference arose among them toward the end of the last session and the work was not completed. He promised to take the matter up and see if the rules cannot be agreed upon.