

The Oath of Allegiance.—In conformity with the new conception of Canadian citizenship as defined in the Act, the form of oath of allegiance has been changed. Under the Naturalization Act it read as follows:—

“I (AB) swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Sixth, his Heirs and Successors, according to law. So help me God.”

Under the new Act, the oath has been altered to read:—

“I (AB) swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Sixth, his Heirs and Successors, according to law, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen. So help me God.”

Canadian Citizenship Ceremonies.—Of the innovations in the new Act the ceremonies attendant upon the presentation of certificates of citizenship at special sittings of the courts are significant. Machinery has been set up by which the courts across the country will be given every assistance possible in the arrangement of ceremonies in connection with the presentation of certificates of citizenship.

It is planned, also, to provide the newcomer to Canada with special facilities for training and education in the fundamentals of citizenship and a manual on Canadian citizenship will be issued to the alien when he files his Declaration of Intention.

Section 4.—The Civil Service of Canada*

In the largest sense the Dominion Civil Service comprises all servants of the Crown—other than those holding political or judicial office—who are employed in a civil capacity and whose remuneration is paid wholly and directly from moneys voted by Parliament. Collectively, they form the staffs of the various Departments, Commissions, Boards, Bureaus, and other agencies of the Federal Government. Nearly every category of occupation is represented in the Civil Service, and personnel are further differentiated in terms of the several authorities under which they derive their appointments. Some few are appointed by either or both Houses of Parliament directly, a considerable number by departments and other agencies in accordance with the provisions of certain statutes, generally with executive approval of the Governor in Council, and the remainder—by far the majority—are selected and appointed by the Civil Service Commission.

As the central personnel agency of the Federal Government, the Civil Service Commission is the custodian of the “merit principle” in respect to both initial appointments and promotions. The steps by which the Commission, in its present form, came to be constituted is the record of Civil Service reform in Canada which began a year after Confederation and culminated in the passing of the Civil Service Act of 1918. Successive Royal Commissions deliberated on the problem of creating an effective and efficient working force and from their findings and recommendations emerged the concept of a quasi-judicial body, with a large measure of autonomy and with jurisdiction over nearly the whole of the public service.

Recruitment.—The recruitment of civil servants is conducted by means of open competitive examinations. In the past 29 years more than 1,000,000 applicants for Civil Service posts have been examined by the Commission. Examinations are held periodically as the staff requirements of the public service dictate. Positions located throughout the country are treated in this respect in the same manner as

* Revised by the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, except where otherwise indicated.