

Chapter X

THE TREASURY AND THE CIVIL SERVICE

THE first kind of regulation applied to offices in the Civil Service generally appears to be that dealing with the qualification of the holders to sit in Parliament. The original restriction in this respect seems to have been the outcome of a fear of the power of the Crown to control Parliament by distributing paid offices and pensions among the members. The Act of Settlement of 1700 (12 and 13 Will. III, c. 2) provided that after the accession of the House of Hanover no person holding an office or place of profit under the Crown should be capable of sitting in the House of Commons. But the disadvantages of excluding from the House all the great officers of State were soon realised, and the provision was modified by the Act 6 Anne, c. 41, so as to shut out only the holders of certain specified offices already existing, of offices of profit created since October 25th, 1705, or of new offices. The holders of certain offices declared not to be "new offices" within the Act were to lose their seats, but to be capable of re-election. Officers of the Army and Navy were exempted from the operation of the Act. As time went on, the general trend of legislation was to draw a broad distinction between political officers who could sit in the House of Commons and non-political officers who could not. When a