

\$200 a month. Mr. White gets \$100 a month.

Mr. INGRAM. Where was Mr. King previously employed?

Mr. EMMERSON. On the Grand Trunk?

Mr. INGRAM. Whereabouts?

Mr. EMMERSON. The general manager tells me he thinks it was at London.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. He used to be in Montreal.

Mr. EMMERSON. He was for a long time in the employ of the Grand Trunk.

Mr. DANIEL. Is it true that the present master car builder receives the assistance in his duties of the gentleman who previously held that position, Mr. White?

Mr. EMMERSON. Mr. White's employment is very largely outside of the works at Moncton. He is engaged in inspecting the cars that are built at the different points in the Dominion for the Intercolonial Railway.

Mr. DANIEL. Would the hon. gentleman tell us what are the duties of Mr. White, who was formerly the master car builder?

Mr. EMMERSON. Mr. White's duties are largely outside the works at Moncton. He is engaged in inspecting the cars that are built at different points in the Dominion for the Intercolonial.

Mr. DANIEL. What salary did Mr. White get as master car builder?

Mr. EMMERSON. The general manager tells me he received \$125 or \$150 a month.

Mr. DANIEL. Does not this gentleman come into the class of those whose salaries have been increased?

Mr. EMMERSON. I do not know whether my hon. friend wants to enter into a discussion as to the merits or demerits of that matter. I can give him the facts. In the position which Mr. White now holds he gets a salary of \$100. When he held the position of master car builder he commanded a salary of either \$125 or \$150. The master car builder's position now commands a salary of \$200. It is some years since Mr. White occupied the position.

Mr. DANIEL. How long?

Mr. EMMERSON. Speaking from personal recollection, four or five years.

Mr. INGRAM. We understand that Mr. White occupied the position of master car builder up to some four or five years ago, and for some reason he has been displaced and a Mr. King has been put in that position. Now, it appears that the department has employed another man and gives him an ad-

Mr. EMMERSON.

vance in wages of \$50 per month over that received by Mr. White. The hon. gentleman does not state whether Mr. White was competent for the position of master car builder. What is the reason for the change? Why should this country pay \$50 additional to Mr. King if Mr. White has given satisfaction and is a thoroughly competent man?

Mr. EMMERSON. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ingram) apparently desires to go into that question. When a mechanical superintendent was secured for the Intercolonial some five years ago, Mr. White was master car builder, and the mechanical superintendent reported that in his judgment Mr. White was not satisfactory for the position.

Mr. INGRAM. Why?

Mr. EMMERSON. Well, there was a question of competency and fitness. The superintendent made a report and requested a man of more experience, and Mr. White was placed in a position of car inspector and the services of Mr. King were secured. This was some four or five years ago.

Mr. INGRAM. How long has Mr. White filled the position of master car builder?

Mr. EMMERSON. About ten years, I am told.

Mr. INGRAM. And this government employed for ten years a man who was incompetent to be a master car builder, and it took the government ten years to find it out. I doubt whether he was incompetent.

Mr. EMMERSON. I did not say that in my opinion he was incompetent, I only gave that as the reason assigned by the mechanical superintendent. I have no personal knowledge as to his fitness or competency. I am only giving the reason assigned by the mechanical superintendent for desiring to change the official.

Mr. INGRAM. That is the reason why I doubt the statement that has been given that he was incompetent.

Mr. EMMERSON. The hon. gentleman does not doubt my statement?

Mr. INGRAM. I do not doubt that the hon. gentleman was told so, but I question the statement itself being accurate. The idea of the Intercolonial having a master car builder for ten years, and only then they discovered that he was incompetent. On the very face of it that statement does not appear to be true. Then you make an incompetent man a car inspector. That is very inconsistent, I am sure. Is that the system the general manager is following? I think probably there is some other reason that has not been stated for this change. I think the reason was probably a political reason.