

gentleman has said will be remembered. Of course, I cannot make any promise. I do not recollect the circumstances under which the former postmaster was relieved of his duties.

Mr. BERGERON. I would be happy, in another place to remind my hon. friend of the circumstances.

Mr. SPROULE. Some time ago, it was intimated in the newspapers that, notwithstanding that the Postmaster General had increased the salaries of country postmasters, it was contemplated to give them another raise, and that that would be done this winter. Was there anything in that, or was it a rumour for election purposes? It was spoken of several times in our part of the country.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. I did not hear the rumour, and do not know of any foundation for it.

Mr. FOWLER. Will the hon. gentleman (Sir William Mulock) please explain the increases?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. There is a total increase of \$125,068. This is made up as follows: Increases in Post Office Inspectors' offices \$2,154.75; increases in the railway mail service \$22,456.50; the city post offices \$90,456.75—all increases in salaries.

Mr. FOWLER. Are they all statutory?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. I think so. The inspectors are entitled to certain increases after certain years of service. There are seven increases of \$100, seventeen increases of \$50 each, one increase of \$78.25, one increase of \$30 and a short estimate in 1904-5 of \$496.50. There are seven increases to the inspectors of \$100 each. In the New Brunswick division Mr. N. R. Colter gets an increase of \$100, which will bring his salary up to \$2,500. The limit is \$2,600.

Mr. FOSTER. According to the Auditor General's Report he is not nearly up to the maximum yet.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. At all events, he is entitled under the law to an extra \$100. The Civil Service Amendment Act raises the maximum to these inspectors. They were not entitled to promotion to a higher class until they had passed so many years in the service, that was under the old law; but under the amendment of two years ago many changes were made in the salaries of civil servants, and, amongst others, of the inspectors.

Mr. FOWLER. Are they all on one footing?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. All treated exactly the same, no discrimination at all, no favouritism; they are all treated according to the law.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK.

Mr. FOWLER. Discrimination is not always favouritism.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. In the Quebec division Inspector Bolduc gets an increase of \$100.

Mr. FOSTER. In the New Brunswick division Mr. Colter is now getting how much?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. What the Auditor General has assigned to him, I suppose.

Mr. FOSTER. The yearly increase is \$100 to an inspector?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. I forget what the provision of the Act is, there are a number of changes in the status of the civil service. Inspector Bolduc is now getting \$2,400.

Mr. FOSTER. No, he got \$2,288 according to this report.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. My officer says \$2,400 is right. I cannot explain the Auditor General's figures; I do not know which is right. But he is at his maximum.

Mr. FOSTER. But these are all government officers. Does he get anything besides his salary?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. My officer explains that that will be for the year closing June 30, 1904, and that would be \$2,300. He has probably had \$100 of an increase, and then on that \$2,300 there may have been some reduction for superannuation, which will bring it down to that broken sum. Now my officer says that the salary was increased from \$2,300 to \$2,400 in August last. Therefore, what I am reading is correct.

Mr. FOWLER. For the new year he will get \$2,500?

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. He is actually now in receipt of \$2,400, and that will continue to be his salary until these estimates come into effect. Then he will get the benefit of the \$100 increase.

Mr. FOWLER. Will that \$12 and some cents be the amount of his superannuation tax?

Mr. FOSTER. It is \$11.58.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. I do not know what the deduction is for the superannuation fund. It is two and a-half per cent, is it not?

Mr. FOWLER. Yes.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. If Mr. Colter entered after the repeal of the Superannuation Act, his contribution would be at the rate of five per cent per annum to the retirement fund.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, I do not see how you get that figure.

Sir WILLIAM MULLOCK. The next item is J. W. Bain, Montreal division. He re-