

a gentleman of whose capabilities I have not the least doubt. He has had long experience in the work of an accountant and in the management of concerns involving large expenditures, and in every way he is thoroughly capable and thoroughly honest. I may say further, as I have been driven to say it, and I am quite willing to say it, that I would not have recommended any other person at present in that office to take charge of the Assistant Receiver-General's office, although that is not saying that we have not faithful and honest and capable clerks in that department. I would be very sorry to have any other impression go abroad.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Does pedigree count for anything in these matters?

Mr. FOSTER. It does sometimes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am inclined to think if Mr. McLeod's pedigree could be traced, that it might be found not among the least important of his qualification.

Mr. FOSTER. I think Mr. McLeod would not be at all ashamed if his pedigree were traced. He does happen to be related to the present Finance Minister. That is not detrimental to him, perhaps, nor to me.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the connection?

Mr. FOSTER. As my hon. friend is so anxious to know—his mother and my mother were sisters.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Under these circumstances, no doubt, the promotion is to a large extent explained. Have you any more first cousins?

Mr. FOSTER. I have a few more. If my hon. friend will have proper patience, he remaining there and I remaining here, he may become acquainted with some more.

Mr. McMULLEN. The Minister is following out the course adopted by his predecessor. I made it my duty to ascertain the number of relations that the ex-Finance Minister, Sir Leonard Tilley, had in office a few years ago, and I think there were fifty-seven.

Mr. FOSTER. I have not lived as long as he has.

Salaries in Country Savings Banks:
New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
and Prince Edward Island. . . . \$11,650

Mr. McMULLEN. Last year there was a reduction in the number of savings banks, and the Finance Minister explained that it was his intention to turn over their accounts to the Post Office Department. Now, I am sorry to notice that there is no reduction in number this year. Of course last year, I believe, one of the managers died, and in that case the account was transferred. I notice in looking over the places where those savings banks are located that they are in large trading centres in the Maritime Provinces, as in several large seaport towns; therefore, I

cannot see why they are still to be kept in existence when we have got post office savings banks in those places. I do not see why these accounts should not be transferred to the Post Office Department, and thus save a large amount of money. I should like to know if the Minister of Finance has any hope that this can be done. I observe that there are no less than thirty-three of these institutions in existence. Does the Minister of Finance intend to keep them in existence until the incumbents of the office die?

Mr. FOSTER. I think I explained this matter to the House last year. The policy is to change those savings institutions into post office savings banks, and to let them drop, owing to the death of the officer in charge, or for other sufficient reasons. The fact that there has been no change last year is because no officer has died and no case of inefficiency has been reported. It never was proposed to make a wholesale change, but simply to change as opportunity arose from the two causes I have mentioned.

Mr. McMULLEN. I hope the number will not be reduced by placing the officers on the superannuation list.

Mr. FOSTER. They are not eligible for superannuation.

Mr. McMULLEN. I am glad if they do not contribute to that fund, which has been increasing rapidly. As the officers receive salaries of only \$300 or \$400 a year it is evident they are engaged in other business. This is only a sop that might be taken away.

Mr. FOSTER. When transferred to the Post Office Department, the work is still attended with expense, although there is a saving on the whole.

Mr. McMULLEN. I notice there is a considerable reduction on the items for commission for payment of interest on public debt, purchase of sinking funds and transfer of stock. I hope we may expect still further reductions.

Dominion Notes, Issue and Redemption \$5,000

Mr. FOSTER. The matter has been very fully explained. As the sum we pay for the management of the debt in London has been decreased, this saving is effected. In regard to the item of \$5,000 for expenses in connection with the issue and redemption of Dominion notes, I desire to add the words "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act."

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How are you going to use this amount?

Mr. FOSTER. I will explain. This amount is for expenses in connection with the issue and redemption of Dominion notes; it is for counting, signing and cancellation of Dominion notes. The work is done by a staff of women, ten or eleven in number, who are constantly employed at so much per day. Most of them, I think, have not passed the Civil Service examination, and are not eligible for