

crease of \$100 for Mr. Stewart, Commander of the Surveying Service.

Mr. FOSTER. He is not in the regular service, is he?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, he is what is called a technical officer. The hon. gentleman will remember that Commander Boulton formerly filled the position which Mr. Stewart now fills, and received a salary of \$4,000. Mr. Stewart is a graduate of the College at Kingston, and was trained under Commander Boulton, and receives a salary of \$1,700, which I propose to increase to \$1,800. I think all sides of the House will agree that that increase is desirable in the interests of the public service. He well deserves it, he is doing his duty remarkably well, and to the satisfaction of everybody.

Mr. HAGGART. Why do you put in "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act?"

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not understand myself why that is put in. So far as Mr. Stewart is concerned, the Civil Service Act does not apply to him at all, and there was no occasion for that, but it was slipped in because it was an increase. The next gentleman in whose salary there is an increase is Mr. Stanton. Mr. Stanton occupies a position in the Civil Service, in the Marine and Fisheries, corresponding to that in other departments known as a chief clerkship. He is in charge of the fisheries correspondence, and he was reported to me by the deputy and all those who understand his business well, as a gentleman who ought to receive an increase. I examined the matter pretty thoroughly, and satisfied myself that Mr. Stanton's case was one that deserved an increase. He is getting \$100, two statutory increases.

Mr. HUGHES. There were six officers last year, and there are six officers this year, and yet there is a considerable reduction in the salaries.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will come to that in a moment; I was confining myself to the increases. Now, with respect to Mr. Gilbert. He is revenue clerk in the Marine and Fisheries Department, and has charge of the revenue, without any assistance, and no less than \$160,000 a year passes through his hands. He is recommended by his superiors as a good officer, and as one deserving an increase. After examining into the matter very closely, I came to the conclusion that \$650 a year was altogether too low a salary for the work performed.

Mr. FOSTER. When did he come into the service?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He entered the service five

Mr. DAVIES.

or six years ago at least. He has to do a great deal of work day and night. There are no politics in any of these increases. Every officer in the department except one, I believe, is in sympathy with hon. gentlemen opposite. Mr. Gilbert, however, I believe has no politics. After consulting with the deputy and the chief accountant of the department, I came to the conclusion that his salary should be increased from \$650 to \$800 a year, which is a very moderate sum. These are the only increases I ask the committee to vote.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). I notice the words are appended "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act." Why is that necessary?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Because Mr. Gilbert is a third-class clerk, and the increase is \$150.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). It seems to me that while hon. gentlemen opposite found much fault with these words being used when they were in Opposition, they are now used to an extent far beyond any application ever anticipated. It is a dangerous precedent, and is adopting a dangerous principle.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I thoroughly agree that hon. gentlemen opposite have a right to receive full information as to the reasons why I propose this increase. Mr. Gilbert is practically assistant accountant; he has charge of an expenditure of \$160,000; he works day and night and has no regular hours. There is no question of politics in this advance. He is a young gentleman who has an enormous amount of work to do, and does it well. The officers in the department recommend this advance, as his present salary is altogether inadequate for the service he discharges. I looked into the matter myself and satisfied myself that the representations were correct; so I took upon myself the responsibility of advising that this increase be made. I repeat that there are no political influences at work in this matter; I do not think Mr. Gilbert has friends in this country, but he is a thoroughly good officer and efficiently performs his duties. It is an act of common justice to grant this increase. I recommend it cheerfully, after having made a close examination into the facts.

Mr. COSTIGAN. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will make other explanations, as I suppose increases grow out of decreases.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is a decrease, which I propose to the House, and it is a very unpleasant duty to perform, but under the circumstances I feel bound to propose it. My hon. friend (Mr. Costigan), when he was Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in August, 1895, appointed Mr. O'Hanly as technical offi-