

will be a good deal more loss of time if they are all centralized in one office.

Mr. FIELDING: What the minister has read is for the establishment of the headquarters staff in New Brunswick?

Mr. McCURDY: Yes.

Mr. FIELDING: Has the hon. gentleman a statement for the reorganization at Halifax?

Mr. McCURDY: Oh, yes. I should like the committee to understand that the recommendations I am reading are made by the chief engineer of the Public Works Department, and both the establishment and the personnel are subject to approval by the Civil Service Commission. In Nova Scotia the office of district engineer—which is called a grade 2 office—is to be filled by C. E. W. Dodwell; senior assistant engineers, T. J. Locke, W. P. Morrison; assistant engineers, J. R. Freeman, H. N. Putman, N. C. Ralston, O. S. Cox and two engineers to be promoted; junior assistant engineers, A. MacGillivray, P. D. Mosher, H. Munro; engineer clerk, W. S. Archibald; draftsman, H. P. Bernasconi; staff stenographers, E. B. Blois, A. Connell; junior clerk stenographer, C. MacDonald. Employees to be retired: G. A. Bernasconi; A. Bernasconi; Melville McKean; C. E. Hamilton; M. McDonald; Miss M. Fry; Miss A. M. Jones.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Does that comprise the whole number to be retired from all the offices in Nova Scotia?

Mr. McCURDY: Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE: Before the reclassification was made, in what class was Mr. McKean? Was he not assistant to Mr. Bernasconi for many years?

Mr. McCURDY: He was assistant engineer.

Mr. McKENZIE: That is, he was next to the chief in the office at North Sydney?

Mr. McCURDY: If my hon. friend means that he was next in seniority in the office of the district engineer, yes.

Mr. McKENZIE: Mr. McKean has been in the service of the department for twenty-one years or longer. In 1918 or the latter part of 1917, when the Government found it necessary to establish an aeroplane station at North Sydney, Mr. McKean who has the training of an architect as well as of an engineer, was put in charge of that work, and at that time his salary was increased to \$1,900 a year. I understand

that under the classification made by the Civil Service Commission of the employees of the Public Works Department these outside men were not properly classified, and that Mr. McKean, though he was regarded as chief assistant to Mr. Bernasconi, now finds himself in a grade far below that in which he thought himself to be for many years. I think that the minister or the proper officials of the department should see that Mr. McKean is put in the proper class before retirement so that he may get the benefit of his many years' service. If there are any papers or correspondence showing the history of Mr. McKean's connection with the department, the different positions he has occupied, the rates of salary that he has been paid and the classifications which were made of his position before the Civil Service Commission came in, I should be very glad if the minister would bring them down.

Mr. McCURDY: When an officer is retired under this reorganization, that is his fortune or misfortune, as the case may be. Possibly it may prove to be good fortune to be retired under pension; if the officer in question has good qualifications it may mean the making of him, because he may go out into the world and make a bigger name for himself even than he did in the department, and have his pension besides. My memory is that this particular official, Mr. McKean, joined the engineering service thirteen or fourteen years ago. His salary on retirement was not \$1,900, as my hon. friend has suggested, but \$2,340, and if recommended he is entitled on retirement to a pension based on his average salary during the last three years of his service. Speaking of the retirements in that district, I may say that we lose in the reorganization the services of a well known engineer, Mr. G. A. Bernasconi, who has been in the service of the department continuously for almost thirty years, in addition to a previous service which was subsequently broken by a year or two of absence from this country. But Mr. Bernasconi has reached an age at which engineers cannot be expected to be very active. In his retirement the department loses the services of a valuable officer.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): How much is Mr. G. A. Bernasconi entitled to on retirement? And what will Mr. Adolph Bernasconi receive?

Mr. McCURDY: The whole reorganization is subject to the approval of the