

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This young man naturally wants promotion, but he has not the post-graduate work, as I understand it, and the result is that he is not eligible for the higher position. We are making the best use we can of his services; I suppose it is better to have him there than to have no one. It just shows how far short these examinations are; he may be a better man than someone who would qualify by examination.

Mr. HANSON: Is it necessary that he should have a post-graduate standing, after taking the university degree in science and having nearly ten years' practical experience in the work? That is the fact, and I think he has every qualification except that of post-graduate work. I do not recall any reference in the circular to the requirement of post-graduate work, but I am subject to correction on that point. I may add that there is not an iota of politics in this matter; I do not know how the young man votes, and I do not care, but I would like to see justice done to him, because the principle of promotion in the service is at stake. From what I have heard he is doing the work in a reasonably satisfactory way; beyond that I would not like to go. The matter is worthy of the minister's consideration.

Mr. MARTELL: Who determines these qualifications? I quite agree with the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) that sometimes qualifications are prescribed which are absolutely non-essential. We are getting too far into this academic business. The minister suggested this afternoon that when men found they could not get very much pay in certain lines of activity they took up other professions or occupations. There are members of other professions—engineers, lawyers and doctors—who are not half as well paid as some of the so-called agricultural experts with which the minister and previous ministers, backed up by the Civil Service Commission, have been filling the country. We have too many people who are faddists and we have too many fads. I have no reason whatever to set myself up as an expert in agricultural matters, because I am not; I know very little about it. But I can get any number of practical farmers in the county of Hants who will teach him and a whole lot of his experts a good many things, in spite of their academic qualifications.

Mr. HANSON: I would not like to agree that it is not necessary to have a plant pathologist in New Brunswick, especially in

view of the magnitude of the potato business and the number of enemies that the potato plant has. All I am asking the minister is to look into one particular case, and I believe that if he gives it his personal attention and also if the deputy minister will be good enough to look into it, they will feel like doing justice to the young man to whom I refer.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The qualifications called for in appointments of this nature are agreed upon between the Civil Service Commission and the head of the branch concerned. They have thought—wise or otherwise—that the qualification of post-graduate work should be possessed by applicants for this position, and I am free to admit that a man who has had five or ten years' practical experience might be an infinitely better man, but you cannot change these qualifications every time you advertise.

Mr. HANSON: They are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians, or like an act of parliament; they can be changed as occasion requires, by order in council.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: So far as this gentleman's political complexion is concerned, we have enough trouble finding out his qualifications and looking after other matters without going into that. I do not know his politics from Adam's.

Mr. HANSON: I only mentioned that because I did not like to have it thought that I advocated justice to this young man simply because he was a supporter of mine. I have not any idea what his political professions are.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: How is it that these officials are appointed by the Civil Service Commission? Are they temporary appointees? How is it that they do not appear under the head of Civil Government?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The civil government note takes in only the staff in the city of Ottawa.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Would the minister inform the committee how many are engaged in the work provided for in this item? I notice that in 1920-21 the item was \$140,000 less than the vote the minister is now asking the committee to pass. That is quite a considerable increase, considering the work that is being carried on. In so far as my observation goes, I have seen little evidence of the activities of those engaged in this work. When the minister was speaking of