

time when reflections might have been cast upon the late Government relative to the manner in which Mr. Vankoughnet performed his duty, and I think I remember correctly that when he was superannuated, no vote of censure was called for on the action of the Government on dispossessing him of the office he held. If anything needed to be said in justification of the superannuation of Mr. Vankoughnet under the administration of the department by Mr. Daly it could be found in a very strong letter which appeared in the Toronto "Globe" over the signature of Mr. H. H. Cook, entirely supporting the stand the Government had taken by Mr. Daly in recommending this superannuation.

I regret that the Minister of Interior differs from the hon. the Premier, because a little time ago the Premier made the announcement that of all matters to be kept in view, one certainly should be the advancement of art and literature in Canada. Now, I regret to see that Mr. Scott, who has acted as superior officer to Mr. McLean in that department, has not been advanced instead of Mr. McLean. In the absence of Mr. Reed, Mr. Scott usually discharged the duties of this office, and I venture to think, discharged them with the greatest possible satisfaction to all hon. gentlemen, and to the public generally, who may have come into contact with him.

Mr. DAVIN. I rather think my hon. friend the Minister of Interior made a too sweeping proposition in reference to the question under discussion. The question under discussion was the superannuation of Mr. Hayter Reed and Mr. McGirr, and in that connection the Minister said that it is notorious that the management of the department had not been what it was desirable it should be. Well, the meaning of that could only be that Mr. Hayter Reed and Mr. McGirr, but especially Mr. Hayter Reed, who occupied a controlling position in that department in the North-west Territories, had been inefficient. Now, I must say this in justice to Mr. Reed, that I have had a good many transactions with that department in connection with business in the North-west Territories, and so far as I was able to judge of Mr. Reed's actions as Indian Commissioner, he was a most efficient officer, and so far as I was able to judge of his conduct as Deputy Minister here, he was a most efficient officer. Not only that, but his subordinates who were in a position to criticise him, although some of them personally may have disliked him, I never heard from one of them an opinion regarding his management of the department that did not reflect credit upon him. The reputation Mr. Reed had in the Territories was one that we in this House should always be ready to acknowledge. The reputation he had as Commissioner—and I think his actions here as Deputy Minister bore that out—but certainly

Mr. BENNETT.

as Commissioner the reputation that he had was one of keeping down the expense of his department as low as possible, and of having a thorough knowledge also of his department in all its details. As my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) has pointed out, he had won the confidence of the Indians to an extent that no other man in that department had ever done. That is a great advantage in itself. I must say that the proposition made by the hon. Minister, made as it was in connection with the superannuation of Mr. Reed, seems to me to reflect unjustly on that officer, and in a way that facts would not bear out. And so with Mr. McGirr. Of course, I am not in a position to controvert what the Minister says respecting the duties that Mr. McGirr had to discharge, but I must say that the reputation that Mr. McGirr had in the North-west Territories was that of a man who has a thorough knowledge of Indian Affairs and was a most useful officer. I could quote the opinion of gentlemen in the North-west Territories who are connected with the department now, and who have the confidence of hon. gentlemen opposite, who share that opinion, or used to share that opinion that I have expressed in regard to Mr. McGirr. Now, there is this remark, I think, to be made. I think that none of us will deny that the Minister is perfectly entitled to say that he will have to be judged by the result of the experiment that he is making. Of course, that is the position of every Minister entering in the duties of a new department. But I express this hope, that we shall not find by-and-by that this place that is now made vacant, this position of deputy superintendent, will be filled up again. If this removal is a bona fide one, and if the two departments can be carried on by one man, why, if time endorses that view, we shall of course rejoice at the fact. But what I say now is that I fear that after some little time has passed away, the Minister will discover that in a department like that of Indian Affairs, so full of details as it is, and having so many complicated questions coming before it, he will have to appoint a deputy, and then we shall have a deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs brought in from the outside, just as we have a Deputy Minister of Interior. That is what I fear is going to take place. I rose because I could not hear the remarks that have been made without saying that there cannot be the least doubt that a more conscientious or a more efficient officer is not in that department to-day than Mr. Reed or Mr. McGirr.

Mr. FOSTER. Can the Minister tell the House who he proposes to appoint as law clerk?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not arrived at any conclusion as to the appointment. I may say, by way of ex-