

department based on the report in writing of the deputy head, may appoint a person to the position without competitive examination and without reference to the age limit, provided the said person obtains from the Commission a certificate, to be given with or without examination, as is determined by the regulations of the Commission, that he possesses the requisite knowledge and ability and is duly qualified as to health, character and habits.

What was the technical knowledge which was required in the department, and which this man possessed?

Mr. HAZEN: That was the knowledge which would be obtained by practical experience in connection with fishery work. Mr. Fisher had that practical knowledge through his experience as inspector in Nova Scotia. To appoint a man who had no knowledge of fisheries to assist the Fisheries Commission would be an absurdity. We wanted a capable man and applied to the Civil Service Commission for him. They advertised for such a man and there were a number of applicants. The view of the Civil Service Commission was that Mr. Fisher possessed the qualifications necessary for the position to a greater degree than any of the other applicants, and, therefore, on the report of the deputy minister, Mr. Desbarats, being made, as required by the Act the appointment was made.

Mr. McKENZIE: Can the minister tell us how long it was between the time this man gave up his calling as a preacher and the time he qualified as an expert in fisheries?

Mr. HAZEN: I have not that knowledge.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am told that he distinguished himself, not so much as a preacher, but as a politician, and as a political preacher and ward heeler, he brought himself conspicuously to the notice of the Conservative party, and that that was his recommendation and he required very little else. His expert knowledge of fisheries, which he gained perhaps in a year as inspector, was very slight indeed, perhaps they rubbed him over a codfish and he smelt of fish, and that is about all the knowledge that he possessed. I find in the Auditor General's Report a name which attracts my attention, W. E. Fraser, of Liverpool, Nova Scotia. It is the wandering official of my hon. friend's department that I met down at Cape Smoky in the county of Victoria, in the midwinter of 1912, in the midst of a local election?

Mr. HAZEN: I do not know, I am sure.

Mr. McKENZIE: I asked this question before, and the hon. minister told me yes, this was the same man, and I am curious to know whether, in his travelling expenses, he has been dividing and adding so much each year to make up for what it cost him to go down to Cape Smoky.

Mr. HAZEN: I do not know if he was our officer then.

Mr. McKENZIE: I think it is strong evidence that he was the officer of the department both before and after that.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What did he do at Smoky?

Mr. McKENZIE: He told them that he had been sent there as a special officer of the Militia Department. I assume that he was the expert whom the Minister of Marine lent to the Department of Militia to go down there and talk about the \$100 that each man was to get as his share of the Fenian Raid bounty. He made a specialty during that campaign of telling the old men on that shore that he had the authority and the money to pay them a share of the Fenian Raid bounty, the only condition being their signing a declaration that they would vote for the candidate of the Tory party. That was sworn to in the Supreme Court at Baddeck by one man to whom he offered the money. I have brought this matter to the attention of the minister on previous occasions, but he still thinks the gentleman in question to be a very deserving official. I should not be surprised if his salary should be raised as compensation for the excellent service which he rendered.

I should like to get some idea from the minister as to the duties of the fishery overseers. I find that Mr. Hellen, of the district of Cape North, whose salary is \$120, gets a travelling allowance of \$262.49. Cape North is a very small district, and unless the overseer is busy all the time, I do not think he could earn that much money. As the member for Westmorland has said, these men should be paid on a more businesslike basis. Ingonish is also a comparatively small district. The overseer, Mr. Donovan, receives a salary of \$60, but he travels quite a distance to earn it, for his allowance for travel and outlay last year was \$389.32. Mr. McDonald, of Plaster, North Shore, gets a salary of \$60, and last year his travel and outlay was \$187.51. I think I was in error in saying that the officer for Middle River was Mr. McDonald. The member for Inverness informs me that Mr. McDonald has been replaced by a Mr.