

of those temporary clerks. This year he has dispensed with some more of them; but he proposes to fill up his permanent establishment to what he considers the complement from those who have been transferred from the permanent temporary staff to the civil service staff. So there is an addition of one first-class clerk, one second-class, four third-class clerks at small salaries, making up a total of forty instead of thirty-five.

Mr. McMULLEN. The minister says a number of the temporary clerks are permanent temporaries, and he proposes to remove them from that class and make them permanent. Under the superannuation system I presume that these clerks would be entitled on taking advantage of the superannuation, to claim for the entire time that they have been in the service as temporary clerks when they are put on the permanent list.

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. McMULLEN. In what relation do they stand to the superannuation law?

Mr. FOSTER. None. They are outside of it.

Mr. McMULLEN. When they are put on the permanent list they are not outside of it.

Mr. FOSTER. When they are put on the permanent list they pay superannuation abatement from the time they become on the permanent list, and get the advantage of the Superannuation Act in proportion to the time they have served on the permanent list, not on the temporary. Suppose a temporary clerk had been temporary for twenty years, and was, in this vote, made permanent as an engineer, say at a certain salary, his civil service, as far as superannuation goes, commences with the day he is appointed on the permanent list, and his abatement commences at the same time. His advantages for superannuation are in proportion to the time he serves on the permanent list, not upon the temporary list.

Mr. McMULLEN. Has there not been a suggestion that these temporary clerks, when they enter on the permanent list, by paying in the sum they would be required to pay had they been permanent clerks, would be allowed to participate in the superannuation from the date of their appointment?

Mr. FOSTER. That was done at the time of the passing of the Superannuation Act with reference to old servants who had been in the employ of the Government.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman is asking here for practically the same amount as he asked for last year, but in the report of the Auditor-General for the expenditure of the department for the year before, I find that only \$36,082 were expended out of a total of \$50,107, leaving an unexpended balance of \$14,000. Would the hon. gentleman explain that?

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. FOSTER. That is because there were several vacancies which were not filled up; Those of Perley, Arnoldi and some others. These vacancies were not filled, and the work was done by the permanent temporary engineers. This year Mr. Coste is chief engineer at \$3,200.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that all of that unexpended \$14,000 is accounted for in that way? It is more than one-third of the whole expenditure.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes; by these suspensions and other vacancies. The reason for the large number of clerks and the decrease in the total amount voted arises from the fact that several of the large salaried offices were vacant during the year preceding, because my hon. friend refers to the appropriation in the Auditor-General's Report for 1891-92. They have, however, been in part filled during the current year. Amongst those I remember there would be the position of chief engineer, formerly occupied by Mr. Perley, which has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Coste. The chief clerkship has been dropped, which accounts for \$2,400 of the reduction. Mr. Arnoldi's place has also been filled. Then there were several vacancies among the second and third class clerks which have not been filled, but the higher class of clerkships have been divided into lower class clerkships, enabling a larger number of clerks to be taken on at a diminution of cost.

Mr. McMULLEN. When I raised the question whether the temporary clerks, when placed on the permanent list and allowed to participate in the superannuation fund, were credited with their entire period of service, my attention had been called to that point by correspondence that passed between the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Clerk of the Privy Council, to be found on page A-9 of the Auditor-General's Report. In an Order in Council there given, it is stated:

The Board, in compliance with the law, have recommended favourably on the cases submitted to them, but at the same time the Board have to direct the notice of Council to the fact that placing these officers on the permanent list has the effect of bringing them under the operation of the Superannuation Act, and that hitherto no provision has been made for payment of abatements on the pay of these officers while temporarily employed, although their temporary service counts on retirement.

The Board now recommend to Council that from and after the 1st inst., it shall be optional with temporary officers, on receiving permanent appointments, to place themselves, as far as regards their temporary services, under the operations of the Superannuation Act; but that in the cases where officers desire to avail themselves of this privilege, the Board are of opinion that abatements should be paid on their past temporary salaries since the Superannuation Act came into force, when the officers have served for so long back; otherwise, from the commencement of their temporary services.