

Mr. MARSHALL. How many inspectors?

Mr. GRAHAM. I will get that for the hon. gentleman in a minute.

Mr. FOSTER. Does this commission find plenty of work to do?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. It is over burdened with work?

Mr. GRAHAM. I would not say that it is overburdened. I would like to say a word as to the selection of Mr. Justice Mabee as the head of the commission. I think the public will bear me out in saying that this is as happy a selection as has been made in several years.

Mr. FOSTER. You do not limit that to the selections made by this government?

Mr. GRAHAM. I would like to extend to all governments the same courtesy. He is a man who is fitted for the position possibly better than any other who could have been chosen.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, let us hear the minister's opinion of the next one?

Mr. GRAHAM. Of the whole board?

Mr. FOSTER. No, of the next one.

Mr. GRAHAM. I am speaking of the chairman. I think they are all efficient. The board is doing excellent work. One portion is in the west and the other is in the city of Ottawa. The decisions during the past year have been democratic, to say the least, but they have been approved by the public very largely. I expect the chief commissioner here in a few days to discuss with him the filling of the vacancy.

Mr. FOSTER. How long has that position been vacant?

Mr. GRAHAM. Since the death of Mr. Greenway.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose the work of this commission is always ahead of it?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, the commissioners have all plenty to do, but the chief commissioner is a man who cleans up his work with a rapidity unknown to many people. He is an inveterate worker and he often decides cases that under other circumstances it might take months to dispose of. He decides them before the parties have left the room. I expect him in the city in a few days, and I want to consult him with regard to the new appointment to be made. If the vacancy is to be filled my own opinion is that it should be filled by a competent western man who knows the conditions there, and, the chief commissioner, having been through the west and having dealt with many cases there, may possibly have

in his mind some one who will fit into the niche.

Mr. FOSTER. I judge that the minister will depend mainly on the recommendation of the chief commissioner as to who shall fill the vacancy.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would not like to nominate a man to the commission who would not be satisfactory to the chairman. I would feel that I ought to consult with him in a matter of that kind. He will have some information as to western conditions, and I will postpone making the appointment until I consult with him.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the minister ever thought of adopting the principle, which was adopted by the old Romans in filling a vacancy, of allowing the members of the commission at the time to select the man to fill a vacancy that happened by death or otherwise?

Mr. GRAHAM. I am afraid that might perhaps be something like the system followed in selecting municipal councillors under which the man having the next highest vote may get the situation. We want some one who will be worthy of a seat on the board. My hon. friend from East Elgin (Mr. Marshall) asked me a question as to the number of inspectors. There is an inspector and three assistant inspectors of accidents and an inspector of equipment.

Mr. LANCASTER. I am told that the commissioners are handicapped by having only one special car. The effect of what I am saying is to advise the government to provide such facilities as are necessary to the proper carrying on of the business of the board. I am told that when some of the commissioners were going through Ontario lately they were handicapped by not having a car in which to carry their equipment, their clerks, stenographers and so on, as the other branch of the board were out in the west and they had the only official car belonging by the commission to carry their equipment and staff. They have to have engineers, stenographers and other officials to help them, and one can readily understand that when they are travelling they can save a lot of time if they have their own car and are able to do work, which they cannot do if they have to travel in the ordinary trains and in the ordinary way. I think it would be a saving to the country if this official car were supplied, and it is perhaps right that I on this side of the House should say that it would be a reasonable expenditure in the interest of the speedy transaction of the public business. If they had this car they could carry their officials and have the work done while they were travelling which would be a very good thing for the country. Does the min-