

officer of the department is asked to furnish regulations referring to a certain matter—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Orders in council—

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, orders in council, for instance, or statutes, and so on; these things must be done correctly. I have found Mr. Rothwell very diligent and very faithful. In cases I have asked him, he produced the statutes, which it must take him a considerable time to find, the regulations and so on. That facilitates the hearing of the case when the counsel have come and puts the minister in a much better position to deal intelligently with the matter than he otherwise could. Then, I have explained in a general way, that Mr. Rothwell takes the place of the deputy minister when the deputy is absent. I do not say he is entitled to remuneration directly for that, but being so called upon increases his responsibility. And I may also point out that, notwithstanding this change that has been made, there is a reduction on the whole item. The salary received by Mr. Hall before was \$2,800, and the sum of \$800 is divided equally between two officers, Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Keyes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman has whittled down Mr. Rothwell's work in this appellate court almost to the fine end of nothing. It was a heavy job as the Prime Minister told it; Mr. Rothwell had to prepare an abstract of these cases, to select what was relevant and what was irrelevant on these questions of fact and so on, so that it seemed surprising that Mr. Rothwell could perform these duties, or act for the deputy of the department with so many other things to do. Now, the acting minister left us with the impression that if there are counsel in the case Mr. Rothwell is careful to abstain from any interference; if there is no counsel, all Mr. Rothwell does is to show the minister where the orders in council can be found. Then he finds out the statutes—there are not many of them, and the experience probably in one case would enable him at the touch of a bell to do all that work in a very few minutes. Therefore, in regard to this judicial work my alarm is largely allayed; the Prime Minister alarmed me, when on his explanation, I inferred that this gentleman was sharing a large amount of the judicial work thrown upon the shoulders of the Minister of the Interior. Now, I am not going to be unreasonable. Here is a gentleman whose name is up for a large increase, and it cannot be for that work. What other work does he do as a law clerk in the department?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I suppose my hon. friend is somewhat familiar with the work of that department. Mr. Rothwell has a great many troublesome questions to deal

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

with, especially in regard to the half-breed claims to land. Many matters also come from the Yukon that require a decision by the minister, and in his absence Mr. Rothwell has to deal with them. There are numerous matters to attend to in regard to titles to land, preparations of leases granted by the hundred daily, as it appears to me.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
On a printed form.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Even if they were in printed form, they require to be carefully examined and filled up.

Mr. FOSTER. Did he draw up that of Philp?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman has talked so long and so often on that subject, that I am not sure whether he ever got a lease or not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In the work of advising on titles does the Minister of the Interior take his opinion direct and act upon it, or is the matter referred to the Justice Department?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He reports either to the deputy or to the minister.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
And that is acted on directly?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think in most every case that comes under my notice they are referred to the Department of Justice when it is thought necessary; but in regard to titles, where he makes his report the deputy minister is satisfied and acts upon it.

Mr. CLANCY. I have been listening for some good reason for this increase that might not just as well apply to any other clerk in the department. I do not know a single clerk in any of the departments that the reason alleged by the hon. gentleman might not just as fairly be applied. We are told that Mr. Rothwell works well, that is to be assumed; that he is courteous, that is to be assumed; that he has increasing work, that is to be assumed. If a clerk starts out at the foot of the ladder in the third-class and goes to the maximum in the first-class, it is presumed that he has had increasing duties all the time that entitled him to an increase. If that be not the case I entirely misunderstand the reason for the advancement of these clerks. I have heard no reason alleged why Mr. Rothwell should be singled out as a special case to be given an advance of \$400. I assume that Mr. Rothwell is a very efficient clerk, but that is not a sufficient justification. When the hon. gentleman had concluded his attempt to show what Mr. Rothwell's enormous duties were I had about made up my mind that he had no duties.