

space, the impressive entrance rotunda of the East Block, cathedral-like in its height and stained glass windows and balcony around two sides, was preserved. An architectural curiosity of the original mid-nineteenth century pseudo-Gothic, it nevertheless had an impressiveness and even attractiveness as a vestibule, wherein the receptionist-commissionaire had his desk and small office.

---

There is a legend in the Department that in the era of Mr. Mackenzie King, a large open water-storage tank for fire protection had been installed in the southwest main tower of the East Block; and although this was not supposed to be used except in emergency, its existence and access was known to some members of the Department, who on certain unbearably hot days of summer, secretly used it as a bathing facility. One day, spurred by an exploratory curiosity, Mr. King discovered this hidden tank, and procuring a key, looked in at a quiet lunch time to investigate. To his utmost astonishment he saw a female member of the staff secretly taking a cooling bath in the tank. He was so upset over this unorthodox encounter that she was very soon separated from the Service.

(This story is said to have been told by Mr. Guy Smith, present Canadian Commissioner to the Federated West Indies, June, 1958).