

not. As I understand the Statute, it provides that when a man is appointed over the heads of others, it should be on the ground of some special fitness, and that ground should be stated in the Order in Council, as is done in England. I hope, for the credit of the Government, the same course has been followed in the case of the special appointments they have been making, and in the case of this Mr. Audet among others. As my motion asking for information is so far down upon the paper, that it is not likely to be reached this Session, I hope my hon. friend the Secretary of State, will waive ceremony and tell me now for what special qualifications Mr. Audet was appointed to a position so much above the positions of others possessing much greater experience in that Department.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. If the hon. gentleman fulfilled his duties to the electors sufficiently to be in his seat at the proper time, he might save the time of this House in asking Ministers to repeat what they have said before. But if the hon. gentleman wishes to remain outside of the House, he may look to-morrow in the *Hansard* for what I have said already to the House, and what I will not repeat. The hon. gentleman said I was new in the House that I did not know much about my position, and that I was taking too high a tone. I do not generally take too high a tone nor too a low tone. I do not think that I have been accused, as somebody in this House might be, of trying too much the patience of the House. The hon. gentleman says I did not know much about my business, being new; but I do know something about it and I am not new in office though I am new in this Government. I generally know what I hit; I do not take a cow for a crow. I am not new in office; I have seen something of a House of Assembly before; I have seen before members in the House talk without knowing at all what they were talking about; I have seen hon. members telling Ministers that they had stated a certain thing when they had not said it, and men who, on being corrected, would not stand corrected but say a certain thing was so when it was not so. I am not new enough not to know those things, and I will tell the hon. gentleman one or two things which he does not know, for if he has been on a Committee concerning the public service and learned something then, he has since forgotten a great deal. He did not know, or if he knew, he has forgotten, that a competitive system for entrance to the public service does not exist; but that it exists in a certain manner in the case of promotions. I have said that a competitive system would not work well for entrance to the service, and that a qualifying examination has been found the best system. With regard to promotions, they are not made only on the recommendations of Ministers. There is not a Minister, from the first to the last, the one who is now addressing you, who can make the slightest promotion without having an examination for promotion. Promotion is not made on the recommendation of the Minister alone. It cannot be made except after a promotion examination to which all the officers of the Department holding positions below the one vacant are eligible; all the other employes in the Department, or those in another Department may be chosen from to fill the office. I need not repeat what I have already said about Mr. Audet in the Department of the Secretary of State. My answer has been given and the hon. gentleman can refer to it.

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman, in that short skirmish which he had with my hon. colleague the Secretary of State, has thought fit to recur again to the appointment of Col. Bacon, and he has shown, in referring to that appointment, the same lack of knowledge about the Civil Service which the hon. Secretary of State has just proved he possesses. If the hon. member for West Elgin will refer to the Statute of last Session he will see that in a certain given circumstance, it is not only possible but necessary that

certain appointments should be made without complying with the examination. If the hon. gentleman will refer to clause 34, section 2, he will see that "when the Deputy Head of a Department in which a vacancy occurs, requires that, for reasons set forth, the qualifications requisite are wholly or in part professional or technical." At any time, I am willing to answer any question put me in reference to my Department, but I think it is taking up uselessly the time of the House in repeating several times what had been already said. I stated to the hon. gentleman, and I say so again, that Col. Bacon was selected, not placed over the head of anyone else in the Department, because in the Department of Militia there was no person who had the qualifications required to fill the position left vacant by the death of Mr. Walkem. He was selected from the outside service; he belonged to the military staff, as brigade major, a position which he filled in a most efficient manner during a number of years, and in the interest of the service he was placed in the position left vacant by the death of Mr. Walkem, being an architect and an engineer possessing all the special qualifications required in the position he now holds. In consequence of these special qualifications he was exempted from the examinations required in ordinary cases.

Mr. CASEY. I repeat that I did not intend to impugn the fitness of Col. Bacon for this office; what I objected to was merely his appointment without examination over the heads of others. The hon. Secretary of State has not taken my criticism as calmly as his military friend, the Minister of War, who is much more peaceable than the Minister of State. The latter, although he has not been very long in the House, has evidently been posting himself in the current humour of the House, but I am afraid that the humour, although it may be fresh to him, is not so very fresh to the rest of us. He referred to an unfortunate incident which occurred in my past shooting experience and to all the shame of which I confess, but I was under the impression that I had killed the cow in question; now, however, I find that I am mistaken, for she comes up smiling every Session, and the last person to resurrect that famous quadruped is my hon. friend the Secretary of State, whom the story has apparently struck with all the force of novelty. On that occasion, I was supposed to have fired at a crow and hit a cow by mistake; but on this occasion it is evident, by the agitated manner of my hon. friend, that my aim has been true, and that he, at all events, has been hit very badly. In regard to the questions put, he tells me that they were answered before I came in. I have to confess that I was unavoidably detained, but I must ask him whether he explained the case of Audet?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I did.

Mr. CASEY. Then I will have to wait for *Hansard* and be content with the answer I find there.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. My hon. friend has put a notice on the paper. He will have his answer then also.

Mr. CASEY. We will not reach that motion this Session, and if the explanation is not given now it will not be given at all. It is well known that this is the time to give such explanations, and the hon. gentleman's colleagues, at all events, have never hesitated to give them when required. If not satisfied with the answer in *Hansard* I will again refer to this matter, but I will not take up any more time with it now. In regard to the question of competition, I am afraid the hon. Minister and I are misunderstanding each other as to the meaning we attach to the word "competition." I mean that there is no competition in the way in which it is understood in the English Civil Service.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I said there was no such competition here.