

passed from the passage of the Act as respects much of its beneficial influence on the Service.

*By Mr. Paterson:—*

Q. Have there been any dismissals during the past few years?—Yes.

Q. Many?—Not a great many; they are a well behaved body of men for the most part.

Q. For what cause have the dismissals taken place?—Intemperance, I think, in all cases.

Q. In cases where a party has been dismissed for intemperance has any other person equally guilty been retained for political reasons?—Not that I know of.

Q. You think that politics would make no difference as far as the administration of the Department is at present concerned in the matter; that any one guilty of intemperance would be dealt with?—Yes; I never knew of any partiality.

*By the Chairman:—*

Q. Do you mean to say that you never knew partiality exercised in the dismissal of persons for political reasons?—No instance of such dismissal strikes me at present.

Q. That is not one of the ways in which political influence enters the Service?—No.

Q. You have known political influence to keep a man in the Department after he was not needed or he had become unfit for the Service?—Not ostensibly: not anything noticeable.

Q. Do you know, as a matter of fact?—I do not know any particular instance; I know nothing of political influence within the Department; I presume that I have the same knowledge that anybody else has, that a Minister will probably appoint his own friends; but there is no question of politics within the Department.

Q. You have found political influence to affect first appointments rather than promotion?—Yes; the question of politics never comes up in the Department.

Q. Do you think it possible to arrange such an examination in the Department as would test a man's fitness for promotion?—Well, that, (the fitness for promotion), is a matter of judgment, and depends a great deal upon the office to which you want to promote a man; I do not mean, however, the ordinary advancement from class to class; that depends on the conduct and not the qualifications.

Q. You do not think it would be possible in the three junior classes?—No.

Q. Would it be possible to test a man's fitness for promotion from those classes to the higher grades by that means?—I am inclined to think that it would be better to have the conditions that surround the first-class extended to the class immediately below, that is the senior second.

Q. What are those conditions?—Pure merit and general qualifications; you cannot really bring out by examination whether a man is intelligent, and ready and fit to direct and control other men; and those are the qualifications wanted in the higher grades.

Q. You could bring out what knowledge a man had of the duties of the Department by examination?—No, not very well; it must be left to the judgment of the Deputy Head, assisted by the other chief officers.

Q. Are there no positions in your Department for which a man's fitness in regard to his knowledge of the duties of the place could be tested by examination?—It would certainly be inexpedient to put a man in the higher grades of the Money Order or Accountant Departments unless he were proven to be a thoroughly good accountant.

Q. You could test a man's fitness for those positions?—Yes, if that were all required to fit a man for them.

Q. The question is whether it is possible to test and prove a man's ability for such a position by examination?—You could only partially test his qualification by an examination.

Q. You could test his fitness for an accountant's position?—You could test his qualifications as an accountant, but he might be a good accountant and book-keeper, and yet be unfit for the position.