

the survey. The officers of the survey are now specially charged as officers in the Department of the Interior. The business of the Department is enormously increasing, and I do not suppose it can be diminished for some time to come.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I have no doubt the labors of the Department of the Interior have increased within the last few years, and one would naturally expect to find a considerable increase in the expenditure of that Department. But I notice here, in connection with the North-West Mounted Police branch of this part of the service, under the Department of the Interior, that there is a considerable increase. I do not understand the necessity for the increase in that particular branch of the service. I notice, also, that there is a new officer appointed in that particular branch. Last year there were three officers, I think, and a chief clerk, and a first and second-class clerk. The chief clerk had \$2,150 a year. This year I observe the hon. gentleman has appointed what is called a comptroller, at a salary of \$3,200, an increase of over \$1,000. I wish to know whether the person who formerly occupied the position of chief clerk is now to occupy the position of comptroller. Has he any additional or other duties to perform as comptroller, that he did not have as chief clerk?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He has the sole charge and responsibility of all the disbursements of the Mounted Police force, of all the contracts for supplies, forage, purchase of horses, of uniforms, and furniture of all kinds. It is a most responsible office and a most onerous office. Mr. White was the chief clerk, of first-class standing, in his Department. He would have had a right to claim the highest offices, from his great ability, on the staff. He is specially valuable in this position. He has been obliged to go this year, and the year before, to the North-West to look after a very large expenditure at the outposts, and they are scattered all over that country. He was the chief organizer and officer of that force. He has got the name of comptroller—it is comptroller of Mounted Police force—that is, he keeps the accounts. He has to keep all the correspondence with the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner, and the different superintendents who are stationed all over the country. He has got a small staff and a great deal of work. He well earns the salary, and we could not keep him unless we gave him that salary. I do not think, at this moment, we could supply his place, and it would be unwise economy if we lost his service.

Mr. CAMERON. No new duties, I understand, have been thrown upon him; but if he discharges the duties the hon. gentleman has mentioned, perhaps it is not too much.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is the duty, in addition, between 300 men and 500 men.

Mr. CHARLTON. What is the increase in the number of first-class clerks employed in the Department of the Interior?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They arise in the service, they arise from length of service, they arise from the duties being enormously increased. We have to have subdivisions for timber limits, for coal lands, and for mineral lands. There has been a very considerable sub-division in that service, which was small originally. It has more than doubled, and with the great pressure just now it is advisable to have a very full staff of competent officers. I tell the hon. gentleman that we have very great difficulty in keeping our officers. The inducements offered them elsewhere are so great that we have lost some of our best officers, because we would not give them the salary. We have lost Mr. Hamilton, who was at the head of the Land Grant Department. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company offered him a salary twice or three times more than we could afford to give him; and we lost some of our most efficient officers,

whose places it is hard to supply. Mr. Lindsay Russell, as the hon. gentleman opposite knows, complains very much of the impossibility almost of keeping these men, owing to the inducements offered them elsewhere.

Mr. CHARLTON. I notice the increase in the expense of first-class clerks is something over \$5,000—\$10,650 last year, \$15,750 this year. I notice the number of second-class clerks is increased from seven to eleven, and the expense from \$9,350 to \$13,800. The number of third-class clerks has increased from eighteen to twenty-nine, and the expense from \$15,950 to \$24,100. It strikes me this is a very large percentage of increase, and must indicate an enormous increase in the business of the Department.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. With respect to the third-class clerks, several of them have been continued from year to year as temporary clerks, and have been put on the permanent staff under the reorganization of the Civil Service Act. Their salaries appear here now as having been paid under the old system, either out of contingencies or out of some votes connected with the different branches of the Department. There were seven or eight of them, if not more, that were brought in and made permanent; but that is not an actual increase of the staff, these people having been there before. During the Session, and sometimes before the Session, a very considerable staff of temporary clerks are employed in making returns, and as soon as the work is over they will be got rid of. But the increase is not so large as the hon. gentleman supposes, for that reason.

Mr. BLAKE. It seems that, notwithstanding this removal from one part to another, the contingencies have increased very largely as well. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would state whether the Geological Survey Branch, which is now proposed to be appended to his Department and paid separately, whether this statement of salaries is just a statement of the service to be paid out of the other vote, or whether it represents the proposed plan of the service.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It represents the proposed plan. Some addition has been made to the salaries on the report of the Director, Professor Selwyn, who also complained of the difficulty of retaining his officers in consequence of the salaries not being adequate. The staff is now making every effort to keep up with the new field opened in the North-West, and especially in the mining regions of the North-West, and I should be very sorry if I should lose any of the men he prizes so much.

Mr. BLAKE. It is now proposed, for the first time, to establish a scale of salaries and regular system for the staff of the Geological Survey, and I think we should have fuller information, so that we may compare the payments made under the former *regime*.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will bring all that information down.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). Is this vote intended to cover the salaries of officers at headquarters, or the whole staff in connection with the Geological Survey? If it is intended for the clerks here I think it is a large expenditure. The vote proposed is \$60,000, and the clerks, numbering twenty-six, will receive \$31,604. I do not understand that their duties in connection with the Geological Museum and elsewhere are so excessive as to require twenty-six clerks at such large salaries.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This amount is for the whole staff, including explorers, field men and scientific men. They had to be brought into some class under the Civil Service Act, and they are placed, according to their relative rank, as chief clerk, and so on.