

Mr. BERGERON. The "Hansard" for the past eighteen years would fall on his head.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes; but it is said the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) had a relative of his own appointed, and he may be looking out for a position for himself.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Brodeur). Order.

Mr. WALLACE. I am glad, Mr. Chairman, you are calling these gentlemen opposite to order.

The CHAIRMAN. The reference is to you.

Mr. WALLACE. To me, Sir. We want to know, Mr. Chairman, the reason why the late accountant was superannuated, and why the Act of Parliament was violated so that this man could get the maximum salary when others and we presume capable men—we must assume that the Government keep capable accountants in every department—are getting far less salary, although they have been long in office. I think the action of the Minister highly unjustifiable in this case.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) was in the House or not—

Mr. WALLACE. I was.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have endeavoured to explain why I found it necessary to superannuate Mr. O'Meara. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) has seen fit to say that I have indulged in insinuations against Mr. O'Meara. I am not aware that I did, and I certainly did not intend to.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. Minister said that he could state something.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) allow me for a moment. I know the hon. gentleman is very fond of hearing his own voice.

Mr. WALLACE. I am not so fond of appointing my own relatives.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Well, I am not so sure the civil service list would not show something of that kind.

Mr. WALLACE. You do not know anything about it, then.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I was saying that I did not make any insinuation against Mr. O'Meara. I stated that I found Mr. O'Meara entirely unfit to fulfil the duties of the position in which I found him, and for that reason, in the public interest, I superannuated him. If I were to be asked fifty times over I could only re-

Mr. WALLACE.

peat that in my judgment, as the head of the department, Mr. O'Meara was not competent to discharge the duties of the position in which I found him. I do not think I ought to be asked to go further than that. With regard to the law being violated, of course I know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) is a very eminent authority on a great many subjects, but I did not know that he was an eminent lawyer. I do not profess to be, but I took the opinion of the Department of Justice with reference to this matter, and I have the written opinion of the Department of Justice, that the appointment of an accountant is one which comes under section 37, which the hon. gentleman referred to. Under that section, and upon the statement of the Deputy Minister of the Department of Militia, I made the appointment. So far as the examination is concerned, the gentleman who has been appointed could pass the examination without the slightest difficulty. It happened, however, that he was beyond the age limit, being somewhere about forty years instead of thirty-five, and therefore he could not come into the civil service. I consider that the position of accountant is eminently a technical one. We know that we have now a profession, known as the profession of accountants, and I think the committee will agree with the written opinion given by the Department of Justice that this position may be fairly classed as a technical one. There was no violation of the statute; I proceeded in conformity with the requirements laid down in section 37.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). What about the examination?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is no examination.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). There should have been.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. Minister (Mr. Borden) says that the accountant's metier or business has now become a profession, and if a profession it would be a profession containing a considerable number of professors. Did the Minister make any effort to get tenders or offers to see how many persons would be candidates for this position.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. Minister took this gentleman in at \$2,400 a year which is higher than is paid to the accountant of any other department, some \$600 a year higher than is paid to some of the accountants, and at least \$500 a year is given to this new man more than the average salary of the accountants in all the departments. The only reason given by the Minister for this is, that the cost of living is so much higher in Ottawa than in the place where this gentleman comes from. The place mentioned is not sufficiently known to fame for me to remem-