

Mr. FOSTER. Was inquiry made as to whether there was any person in the department who could have taken the place by way of promotion? It does seem hard, where you have such a large body of servants as you have in the Department of the Interior, when a chance of promotion presents itself, that deserving clerks should not get that promotion.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think if my hon. friend will look over the list, he will see that he is not correct in saying that there are many clerks available for promotion. A position of that kind requires special qualifications. I have no special knowledge of the qualifications of many of the second class clerks, but I am informed that there are none in the department getting less than the amount at which Mr. Marchand was appointed.

Mr. FOSTER. There are thirty-eight clerks over whom Mr. Marchand was placed, who are looking for promotion and working up in their class. Mr. Marchand was brought in and placed over all of them. Consequently, a step forward was denied to those who had been working for years. There are some good clerks there evidently. I do not want to name them, but there are numbers that have reached the maximum of a third-class clerk.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not understand my hon. friend as referring to third-class clerks. While possibly they may be well fitted for their work, they have not the special qualifications for this office.

Mr. FOSTER. What was Mr. Marchand's business?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was a bookkeeper and accountant by profession.

Mr. FOSTER. In a business place in Ottawa?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was in one of the wholesale houses in Ottawa before he was appointed.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister must remember that when you have a system of civil service, and promotions are not very many, it is rather a grievance when you go beyond men who are qualified and bring in a man from outside. There are thirty-eight clerks in this class, and I have not the least doubt that there are some of them well qualified. It seems hard that an outsider should be brought in, and that promotion should be kept from those who are old servants.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There is a great deal in what my hon. friend says, but I take the responsibility of saying that there are none in that class.

Mr. FOSTER. If I were the minister I would not take that responsibility.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I take the responsibility on the information of the officers of the department.

Mr. FOSTER. I would recommend the minister that he be as refreshingly candid as the mayor of Montreal in regard to the appointment of Mr. McShane. While he could not justify it on its merits, he said that it was one of those political appointments that had to be made. If the hon. gentleman does, he will say the same thing in regard to this one.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If that was the case I would say so. I would be perfectly justified in making the appointment of a political friend to the department. But, I was not thinking of the appointment from a political standpoint at all. I told the hon. gentleman that the report of the deputy was that he did not think there were any clerks in the department qualified for that position. There are many clerks who have no special training as accountants whatever. I have given an answer as honestly as I can, and I believe it to be honest.

Mr. FOSTER. We have to take the minister's statement, but we are able to think our own thoughts in reference to it. I suppose this is simply and solely a political appointment?

The PRIME MINISTER. Not at all. I do not know Mr. Marchand, but I understand it is a good appointment.

Mr. CLANCY. Where there is a chief accountant, I am sure that the Prime Minister will know that any person who is a fairly good writer, and has ordinary qualifications, such as are possessed by one of the clerks in the department, when he is under the direction of the chief accountant, he can do the work. It does not require an expert accountant.

The PRIME MINISTER. Is that the case in Bothwell?

Mr. CLANCY. It is the case here. I am not willing that the right hon. gentleman should think that we require a lower qualification there than here.

The committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What is to be taken up on Monday?

The PRIME MINISTER. The same order as that for to-day, Bills and supply.

Mr. FOSTER. What supply?