

himself with a business course, and after finishing his superior school education he goes to a business college and thoroughly fits himself for business. He will probably be better fitted for the work of the departments than the man who comes out of a university, and has got his degree, and who, in nine cases out of ten, has to learn the special work which he is called on to do after he gets through his college course.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He starts with a trained mind.

Mr. **FOSTER**. It all depends on circumstances. Other things being equal, the university course gives him the advantage, but it is only when other things are equal, and your hod carrier might turn out a much better hod carrier if he had never seen the inside of a college. I think the hon. member for Bothwell has the right idea. If you have a special kind of work, which requires a higher grade of training, you look to a university man, but you ought to show that you have that kind of work to be done. When that is shown, you can start this man at \$800. The Auditor General is very partial to university men. He has always held that, other things being equal, he would rather take a university man and start him at \$800 or \$900 than one without university training at a less amount. But what ought to be shown is that there is a grade of work to be done which requires that kind of man. But take a young chap who struggles just as hard, and in nine cases out of ten much harder and for a longer time probably, to fit himself for work than one who was fortunate enough to have friends to put him through a university, I do not think you ought to give a premium to the more fortunate one who has been able to get a university training and who is not more fitted for the class of work you require to be done than the one who did not have that advantage. This clause provides that the Governor in Council may, for special cause shown, appoint a graduate of the Royal Military College or of any university in Canada. What is that special cause? This section would be interpreted to mean that the special cause was the fact that the person applying is a graduate of a university, and on that ground alone he would start at \$800, although he had no special training for the special work of the department.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The special cause would be special qualifications for a particular work. It does not follow from the section that because a man is a college graduate, he must get \$800. There must be special cause shown.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Consisting in what?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have been trying for three years to get a graduate of the Royal Military College in my department as a draughtsman. Parliament fixed the salary at \$600 and I cannot get a man at that price. I tried to get one by raising the salary, but Colonel Kitson told me that even now the salary is too low, and these men with special qualifications will not accept that figure.

Mr. **W. H. MONTAGUE** (Haldimand). What does the hon. gentleman say with regard to business colleges? They are taking a very high stand now in the province of Ontario, they have confederated among themselves, and have a regular standard of examinations which their graduates have to pass. These graduates are much more specially fitted for the work of the department than university men. They are taught practical work, such as banking and stenography and book-keeping, and when our leading firms want book-keepers they apply to a business college. They are specialists to a much higher degree for the business required to be done in the department than university men. I regret, with the Minister of Finance, that I had not a university education. But it is a fact that cannot be denied that men come out of our universities, particularly pass men from our universities, without any qualifications for business whatever. In many cases, the very fact of their having spent four years in this work of the university, in my judgment, sometimes actually unfits them for business. But, putting that aside, if we give this advantage to the university men, I think we ought to give it to the commercial college men.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I do not say that I agree with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) in all that he has said; but, I may point out, that his view is met, to some extent, by the provision in regard to the optional subjects. A gentleman who has gained a certificate in the commercial college can pass in the optional subjects, and thus begin at \$700.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. And you will not examine him?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Yes, he will have to pass an examination in two subjects.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. Why should he?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. To get the extra \$100.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. But, why should he be examined when the university man is not examined?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The degrees of the universities are recognized throughout Canada. I do not think we