

*By Mr Aylmer :—*

Q. What is the limit as to age, for men entering the Department?—From eighteen to twenty-five years.

*By Mr Church :—*

Q. It is more than that, is it not?—That is the limit, but it is not insisted on.

*By the Chairman :—*

Q. Do you know that the rule as to age is broken?—Undoubtedly it is.

Q. Is it frequently broken?—The rule as to age has been very little observed; it has been frequently violated.

1. I am decidedly of opinion that the examination to test the qualification of candidates for employment in the Civil Service should, in all cases, precede employment; and that no person who has not received a certificate of qualification should be employed.

2. I would suggest that a return should be laid before Parliament at the commencement of each Session, shewing :—

1. The total number of persons who offered themselves for examination at each place where examinations had been held during the preceding year.

2. The names, arranged in the order of merit, of those who had received certificates of qualification during the year at each place.

3. The names of the Department to which successful candidates had been appointed, and the rank and salary assigned in each case.

(Signed) W. WHITE.

TUESDAY, April 17th, 1877.

Committee met.—Mr. CASEY in the Chair.

Mr. E. MIALL, jr., Assistant Commissioner of Inland Revenue, called and examined:

*By the Chairman :—*

Q. How long have you been in the Service?—Seven years.

Q. The Department has not been in existence much longer, has it?—It has been in existence nine or ten years.

Q. What was your previous training?—I was articled to a firm of public accountants in England, and I have been, since coming to this country, engaged in manufacturing.

*By the Chairman :—*

Q. Do you approve of the present mode of making appointments to the Civil Service? If not, on what grounds?—I consider it utterly indefensible. Theoretically it may not improperly be urged that the responsibility of all appointments must ultimately rest with the Executive, but I cannot see that this proposition is any excuse for the Executive failing to institute some system under which the wisdom and adaptability of their selection might, in a great measure, be guaranteed. There are, however, those who uphold and defend the present system, and who argue that Government ought to be able, confidently, to rely upon the advice and recommendations of those of the peoples' representatives who usually support them, and who share with them the credit or discredit of such nominations; but it should be borne in mind that these representatives have seldom the means of knowing what qualifications are required in order to fill creditably the positions to which they may be requested to nominate their friends; and even did they know what were required, it would often happen that they would be quite incapable of deciding whether or not those qualifications were possessed by the persons they would desire to nominate. It is to be regretted also, that these are not the greatest obstacles in the way of judicious nominations. Too often the fitness of the candidate would appear to be the last matter considered; neither do I see how it can be much otherwise until members of Parlia-