

that Mr. Rothwell assumes the position of judge or in any way acted as a judge in connection with these appeals. I know that his duties have been very much increased. Since I have been connected with the department, he has had to work until late at night every day to get up his work in connection with the department. As the hon. gentleman has been discussing this theory of referring everything to the Department of Justice, I would say, from my own experience, that that is utterly impracticable, and would cause great dissatisfaction. If every little matter in controversy were to be referred to the Department of Justice, the parties interested would be dead and gone in many cases, before a decision could be had, because that department could not possibly get through the work. It is much better to have an efficient officer in each department, and I am satisfied that the hon. gentleman has not cause for complaint at all of the way the business has been conducted in the department, with regard to these important matters.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As the Solicitor General is not here, it is hardly fair to say that the Department of Justice is in such a condition, that the other departments cannot afford to refer important questions to it, because the delay would be too great. However, that is not the point we were discussing. The Prime Minister said that he understood—and I want to get it from the acting Minister of the Interior, as the Prime Minister was not very certain—that Mr. Rothwell prepared an abstract of these appeal cases for the acting minister or the minister. I wish to find out if the Prime Minister was correct in that regard.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) calls an 'abstract.' But, whatever it may be called, it does not affect the case in the way the hon. gentleman suggests. If Mr. Rothwell is asked for information by the minister he prepares it for him. In many cases he makes an abstract. I know he has done so for me. The preparation of these cases involves a great deal of work, and it is work that can only be done by a capable, responsible man.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) knows what an abstract or precis of a case is. But he has avoided the question I put, and that was, whether the Prime Minister was right in saying that Mr. Rothwell made an abstract of the cases coming before the minister for appeal. For instance, he told how Mr. Power made a precis of cabinet cases which is laid before the Minister of Justice. That is very close to a factum of the case. If the question involved is one of fact, it means reviewing the evidence bearing upon that question; if the question is one of law, it means the selection

and arrangement of the authorities. Now, is that the class of work performed by Mr. Rothwell, either in cases where no counsel appears or in cases where counsel appears?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not know that he does this to the extent indicated by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then, what does he do? If the hon. gentleman is going to ask \$400 additional for an officer's salary, he should be able to tell what his duties are.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think I have explained very fairly to the House and that the House has understood me. The hon. gentleman has made some comparisons, and I leave it to the House to say whether even on the basis of the comparisons he has made these other officers are not receiving larger salaries, in proportion to their duties, than Mr. Rothwell.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then, what does he do?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend must be reasonable. I expect to give all reasonable information with respect to every item. But I cannot be expected to be as familiar with all these details as one who has been in the department for a long time.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But you have had some cases.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Quite a number. Every member of the House is entitled to all reasonable information, and, so far as I am concerned, he shall have it. I shall not ask to be excused. I may not give it with the same ability as the minister himself (Mr. Sifton), but I will take care to acquire all reasonable information for every hon. member. In this case, I think the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is particularly unreasonable in expecting me to go into every detail of what an officer does day by day. I suppose the members of the House must, to some extent, accept the statement of the minister with regard to the duties of an officer in his department without furnishing in the merest detail every duty he performs. I say, from my observation and knowledge since I have been in the department, that Mr. Rothwell's duties are very numerous, onerous and responsible. The hon. gentleman has been a member of the House for some time, and I am sure he never heard of such a thing as making a minister go into details in such a matter. The business of the department has increased very much indeed, due largely to the business in the Yukon. These duties are such as the head of the department thinks it is necessary for Mr. Rothwell to perform. When an