

Q. Do you think higher standards are required in other Departments?—I think not. The Inland Revenue Department requires as high a grade as any other.

Q. Do you think that a uniform examination could be instituted which would fairly test the qualifications for the lower grades in the different departments?—I think so.

*By Mr. Burpee (Sunbury):—*

Q. Do you think there should be a special test for each Department?—I would have a special examination for all persons seeking for promotion. If it was thought desirable to promote an officer from a lower to a higher grade I would have an examination through which he should be obliged to pass.

Q. Is there any such examination at present in the Department?—No.

*By the Chairman:—*

Q. Can you arrange any such examination in your Department in such a way as would be a proper test of fitness?—Oh, yes; very easily.

Q. In both the inside and outside service?—Well the examination in the inside service is all-sufficient when it is passed through. Any young man that can pass the examination before the Board of Examiners is qualified for any duty that he may have to perform in the higher grades of the inside service.

Q. Are there positions in the outside service in which special scientific knowledge would be useful or requisite?—Yes; I did not mention in the list of officers the peculiar position of appraiser. It would be very desirable in the case of appraisers that they should have a considerable amount of chemical knowledge. If they were good chemists it would very often facilitate our business very much.

Q. What other knowledge would be useful—business or commercial experience?—Commercial experience would be very valuable in any of the offices in the outside service of the Customs.

Q. Does an appraiser's duty ever require him to value goods that are not very common in the country and would require to be specially tested?—Yes; very frequently.

Q. Goods in which the invoice would be no guide to their actual value?—It very frequently occurs. Frequently goods are composed of different materials, and the different materials are subject to different rates of duty. It is very desirable that an appraiser should be able to detect those different materials, which could often only be done by a knowledge of chemistry. That is particularly the case with reference to liquors and sugars. There are many articles coming into the country in which there may be detected so large a proportion of sugar that would make them liable to the sugar duties; whereas they often pass at a lower duty in consequence of the want of knowledge on the part of the officer.

Q. Is there any examination at present for the position of appraiser?—No, sir

Q. Neither for entrance nor for trial in the position?—None whatever.

Q. Do you ever experience any difficulty from getting inefficient appraisers?—We have had cases of difficulty.

Q. As a matter of fact there is no safeguard against getting an utterly ignorant appraiser?—Well, there is just this: that parties in whom the patronage is vested, will, generally speaking for their own sakes, refuse to recommend an utterly incompetent man. They may be examined as to the question of a man's qualifications.

Q. But I understand you to say there is no check upon free appointment in this matter?—No.

Q. Is that of appraiser the only position in which special qualifications are requisite?—The same qualifications would apply to almost all collectors, because the collector is, in point of fact, appraiser of his port except where a special appraiser is appointed, and the large majority of our ports have no appraisers. The duties then devolve upon the collector; and it is also desirable that the landing-waiter have the same knowledge because the same duties might occasionally devolve upon him.

Q. For instance, do such ports as Clifton have special appraisers?—No.

Q. Do Windsor?—No; we have appraisers at London, Hamilton, and, of course, there are two or three at Toronto. At Montreal we have four, besides assistant ap-