

Mr. CURRIE: I am going to examine another minister or two on this where I know of cases, but I don't know anything about this postal case and what I want to know is what our Commission is doing. You don't have any examination at all only the entrance examination?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: I have told you we do have a competitive test. It does not mean a written examination necessarily. It is an examination of a person's qualifications.

The WITNESS: You have to rely on the authorities of the post office knowing their business. There is no person promoted except on a competitive examination.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: There is nothing in the Civil Service Act that insists on Civil Service examination for every position. There is a competitive examination but it is not a written examination. That is very frequently found fault with by many members of Parliament. They say: "What is the use of those academical examinations?"

Mr. CURRIE: We have been standing by the ship telling the public what a wonderful concern the Civil Service was because it would not make appointments except on competitive examination and if they failed to pass the examinations they were told by the members: "Well, the reason you did not get promotion was because you did not get as many good marks as you should."

WITNESS: You have to rely on the reports you get from the officers who are over these men, who know how the work should be done, and if a competitive examination is entered into—

Q. What did you do in the old days?—A. As a rule they passed the competitive examination en masse. Every man who passed the examination had a chance to get in regardless of his marks.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. He passed a qualifying examination, not a competitive examination?—A. That is right.

Q. What is the difference?—A. We have the general experience of all the officers who were in charge.

Q. You had it then?—A. Yes, but we did not always promote the man that was recommended.

Q. When you did not have any examinations you had exactly the same power of promotion as you have now?—A. Yes, but I think with the growth of the service it was necessary to have a Commission to do that work.

Q. That is the only reason you can give?—A. That is the principal reason.

Q. What percentage of clerks have you now more than in 1911? And are they of higher quality?—A. I don't think it is quite as good for the reason you cannot get clerks or men in whom you should get. You have no Superannuation Act and the men wont come in as they did before.

Q. You don't think the class of men as good now as in 1911?—A. I don't think so.

Q. We have dealt with your postmasters outside and you still have to give us some information on that as far as small towns and villages are concerned. Let us have that to-morrow?—A. Yes.

Q. In so far as promotions are concerned you are quite satisfied with conditions as they are now in the Civil Service?—A. Yes.

Q. Simply as far as promotions are concerned?—A. Yes, I think it is on a good basis.

Q. You would not interfere with the present system?—A. No, I would not.

Q. Have you any other class of officials inside and out that in your judgment should be taken from under the control of the Commission?—A. No, I don't think I have.

[Dr. R. M. Coulter.]