

I have been pressed to take young men who were really not of the kind we wanted at all. Probably some of them were inclined to intemperate habits and their parents thought they had better get them out of the way, forgetting that they would be worse out of their sight than in their sight. I am glad to say we have very few of these. One man of that kind will not do any good to a party of men at all events. Sometimes men in my profession are suddenly thrown out of employment owing to the stoppage of Public Works. It is very hard on them; they have nothing else to fall back upon, it is only right that they should be considered, and therefore one of the rules, as above given, is, that when they are suddenly discharged they should have some compensation.

*By Mr. McDougall (Renfrew):—*

Q. How do you test their qualifications?—They are examined by the body of Land Surveyors in the country, we have no board here; I wish we had, but if they pass the board of Land Surveyors I am satisfied they are pretty good.

*By the Chairman:—*

Q. If there was not this Board you would have to examine them yourself?—I would like to do it myself.

Q. If they had not passed the Board of Land Surveyors there are no means of examining them?—No; there are no means; but if a man came who had passed a creditable examination at a good college, such as McGill, I would have no hesitation in recommending him. If he has nothing to show that he is well up in the rudiments of education I would be at a loss to know what to do with him; at any rate I would be at loss as to recommending.

Q. You have in these regulations shown what qualifications are required. Does the remark you have made about the lowest grade apply to those that you at present had no definite means of testing them by examination?—It is not intended that they should all be tested. No man is supposed to be appointed, and I don't know that he is, unless he can show that he is fit for the position.

Q. Do you examine each candidate yourself, personally?—I generally examine their testimonials, and when in doubt I refer them to somebody to make inquiries.

Q. At present there is no Board?—No.

Q. No official Board of Examiners?—No; I wish there was a Board.

Q. Those regulations only refer to the Pacific Railway service in 1875, and since?—Yes.

Q. Before that time you had no such formal regulations?—I attempted to carry out the same principles but did not always succeed. There was nothing reduced to writing.

Q. Were those principles actually carried out, for instance in the case of the Intercolonial Railway?—No; they were not strictly carried out. An attempt was made to carry them out, but it was but a feeble attempt.

Q. When you want a man, from whom does the first nomination of the candidate come?—The appointment comes from the Minister of the Department.

Q. On the nomination of yourself or some members?—Not always. It is supposed I concur in the nomination.

Q. Yes; but from whom do they proceed in the first instance?—Sometimes a member of Parliament; sometimes one and sometimes another, generally a member of Parliament.

Q. Does the recommendation originate with you or some outside party?—Some outside party, unless I am asked to nominate anyone; if so, I nominate some one I think especially fitted for the place. Very often there are a great number of nominations by members of Parliament, and selections are made of these.

Q. By you?—No, by the Minister.

Q. Is his selection generally made on your recommendation?—It is made on my knowledge, as a rule. There is no written recommendation, it is made with my concurrence.

Q. Have you always been consulted, and have you always concurred in the nom-