

consisted chiefly in checking the reports that came from the agents. They are checked in the usual way.

Mr. HUGHES. What are the duties of Mr. McLean, the new secretary?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. As secretary of the department he is practically responsible, under the deputy head, for the conduct of all the correspondence of the department. In addition to that, he is particularly the head of what is called the secretary's branch, which comprises the correspondence and registrar's branch—the branch where the largest amount of business has to be done.

Mr. HUGHES. Is Mr. Smart acting Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Smart is acting in the place of Mr. Hayter Reed, who is absent on leave. He receives no additional salary. Mr. Hayter Reed is still Deputy Superintendent General but is not transacting any business in connection with the department.

Mr. FOSTER. What becomes of him when he returns to the department?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. He will be superannuated.

Mr. FOSTER. So that the Minister proposes to get rid of all the old standbys who do know something about the department, and put new men in their places. How long was Mr. McGirr in the employment of the department?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not know.

Mr. McMULLEN. I do not think the remark of the ex-Minister of Finance came with very good grace with regard to getting rid of old men who were in the department and knew all about it. He will remember that Mr. Vankoughnet, the man who knew most about it, was superannuated without his consent, by hon. gentlemen opposite, and Mr. Hayter Reed was put in there, not because he was considered a better man or more efficient, but because a place had to be found for him, and in order to find that place, Mr. Vankoughnet, an efficient and faithful servant, was superannuated against his will. Mr. Hayter Reed, on the contrary, has been a very short time in the department into which he was brought and of which he was made deputy head.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend is very forward in coming to the rescue of the Minister, who has so ably violated the principle that my hon. friend always stood up for when on this side, and who has, in his first appearance before this House, brought down no less than eight violations of the Civil Service Act in his Estimates. This new-found convert, the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. McMullen), has the proverbial zeal

Mr. SIFTON.

of new converts. There is no parallel at all between the treatment of Mr. Hayter Reed and the superannuation of Mr. Vankoughnet. Mr. Vankoughnet was a long time in the service, and an old man.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 57 years old.

Mr. FOSTER. I think he was a good deal older than that. My hon. friend, as usual, is speaking without the book. I happen to know about Mr. Vankoughnet's superannuation, and there is no parallel at all between the cases. The hon. member for Wellington says that Mr. Reed had to have a position made for him. He certainly was not a person floating around somewhere for whom an office had to be found. He was in the employ of the department in the Indian branch, and I make bold to say, and I do not think I will be contradicted, that there is not a man in Canada to-day who understands more about Indian affairs in Canada and who has more of the confidence of the Indians than Mr. Hayter Reed. He was made what he was simply because of the long experience he had had of this branch, one of the most intricate and responsible that the Government has to deal with. So, there is not a fair comparison. My hon. friend has not answered the question as to treatment of Mr. Reed by referring to the superannuation of Mr. Vankoughnet. The same remark applies partly, to Mr. McGirr. He may not have been so long in the service—or perhaps he may have been quite as long.

Mr. HUGHES. Since 1877.

Mr. FOSTER. So he was longer in the service. Mr. McGirr has special knowledge of the North-west and aptitude in the treatment of the Indians, and he was brought here because of these qualifications. Mr. Hayter Reed and Mr. McGirr are two young men, and both men of ability. I do not think there has been any fault found with their work while they have been in connection with the department. They are both able and experienced men, and they have a knowledge of the North-west and of the Indians, which has been especially availed of to do useful work. There is something in being acquainted with the whole of the antecedents, with the whole course and record of matters connected with the departmental administration. These gentlemen have been turned out. Mr. Burgess has been turned down and degraded. These are all men who might have expected far different treatment. They have been long identified with the department, and there is no fault found with their work. But just as soon as the new Minister comes in, a change takes place. These officers are not political supporters, they were not wanted for one reason or another, and, within three months of the advent of the new Minister, before he had even got his bearings in the department, out