

hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), the very work that he tells us he proposes this officer should perform, is supposed to be performed now by officers of the other departments. But, outside of that, the Minister has given us a very crude statement upon which he proposes to appoint this officer. He ought to be able to justify this expenditure to Parliament in a more satisfactory manner than he has done.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is it proposed to appoint as timber inspector?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Stewart, a Dominion land surveyor. He has been engaged for the department as surveyor in connection with the delimitation of the boundary between Ontario and Manitoba. He has been recommended to me by the members of the Ontario Forestry Commission as being a very competent man for that purpose.

Mr. FOSTER. What experience has he had?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. He has been connected with timber matters for a great many years in the province of Ontario. I do not know where he resides.

Mr. CLANCY. Is that Mr. Elihu Stewart, of Collingwood?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes, that is the gentleman.

Mr. CLANCY. He is the gentleman who was one of the Liberal candidates at the general election in North Simcoe, and who was defeated?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes, I am informed that this is the gentleman.

Mr. CLANCY. I can tell the hon. gentleman that while I have nothing to say as to his ability as a surveyor, he never had anything to do with timber.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken, if he says that I employed a gentleman to do work that he is not qualified to do.

Mr. CLANCY. I can tell the hon. gentleman that Mr. Stewart has been feeding at the Ontario crib for a great many years. He has been making useless surveys of townships that no one is living in, and that nobody intends to live in. If these are his qualifications, I will admit that he is eminently fitted for this work. But he does not know anything about timber. While he may be a very good surveyor, he does not know anything of the duties of a timber inspector.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Would the hon. gentleman say by what authority or by what knowledge it is that he says this gentleman has no knowledge of timber?

Mr. CLANCY. I know this gentleman. I do not reflect in the least upon him or upon his ability as a surveyor, but I have known him since the time he was a boy, and I went to school with him.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. What has he done while he was employed by the Ontario Government? Has he not been engaged by the Ontario Government in connection with the timber business?

Mr. CLANCY. No.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. He has not?

Mr. CLANCY. No, he has been engaged making surveys.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken.

Mr. CLANCY. I have had more to do with him than the hon. gentleman himself. Mr. Stewart has been for years employed surveying townships in Ontario. If the hon. Minister will take the trouble to look at the Ontario public accounts, he will see that the sum of \$35,000 is put in regularly for the surveying of new townships. Mr. Stewart has been engaged in this work from year to year, as regularly as the years come round. He finally became entitled to such prominence that he was a candidate in the last general election in North Simcoe. He was defeated, and now he is securing his reward. I have nothing to say, personally, against Mr. Stewart; but as a timber inspector, he has had no experience, and he is entirely unfitted for it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. All I have to say in regard to Mr. Stewart's record is, that I am perfectly satisfied the hon. gentleman is not making a statement that is correct, if he means to say that Mr. Stewart is not qualified to be a timber inspector. I can tell the hon. gentleman that the Ontario Forestry Commission recommended him for that position.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are they?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not remember their names at the moment. Mr. Waldie is one.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman lay that statement before the committee?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Certainly, I will. I do not want this committee to run away with the impression that the hon. gentleman tries to create. The hon. gentleman is very reckless in his statements, when he undertakes to lead this committee to believe that I have appointed a man to a position for which he is unfitted, and the hon. gentleman has no warrant for making that statement. It will be proven that he has no warrant for making the statement that this gentleman has had no experience