

Q. That will do, I am not particular as to the question of the date. I cannot expect you to carry it in your mind. Mr. Clerk was in the Department for some time?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, what position did he occupy in 1911 or 1912?—A. He would be then, I think, perhaps, what we call a locker.

Q. Did not he have a higher position than that?—A. He was chief locker.

Q. He got into some trouble, did he not, and there was an investigation by Mr. Busby and a report?—A. I saw that reference in your speech.

Q. Never mind my speech. It is a very unreliable speech, I am told. You do not remember that?—A. I was not in charge then, Mr. Stevens.

Q. That is quite true. But would you mind refreshing your memory so that we can speak of that again, and look up Mr. Clerk's record.—A. I will look it up.

Q. You are not aware of his being investigated by Mr. Busby, and being promoted?—A. No, it would not come under my observation.

Q. It would not come under your observation?—A. No.

Q. Well, I will not press that point. What qualifications did Mr. Clerk have for the very high position of inspector of the port of Montreal, and the district of Montreal?—A. His length of service; experience; through length of service, I presume.

Q. Did you recommend him to the Civil Service Commission?—A. I think he was recommended, of the applicants for the position or promotion.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I have put on the order paper a resolution calling for papers in regard to Mr. Bisailon himself and I would like the papers in regard to Clerk as well.

Mr. KENNEDY: We consent to that being added.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: We will add Clerk's name, so we will have the evidence before us regarding him.

WITNESS: The position would be advertised in the usual way for promotion, and there would be a certain number of applicants. They would be rated and the man usually thought best qualified of the applicants would be recommended.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Did you recommend Clerk yourself?—A. I cannot remember the details now. There would be a certain number of applicants. But I do not remember how many there were. There may not have been more than one, for all I know.

Q. From your own knowledge of Clerk, would you consider Clerk a proper officer to recommend for the high position of inspector for the port of Montreal? I want you to give me your candid, frank opinion on that, without any question of what you might have done?—A. I do not think I should be asked to give any opinion of that kind.

Q. I am going—A. Yes, I know—well, I do not think I will answer it, unless it is necessary for me to make a statement regarding every officer.

Q. You would rather not tell me whether in your opinion or not Clerk was a suitable appointee for that high office?—A. No, Mr. Stevens. There is just one thing—you see, in Montreal, we have officers of both languages. Unfortunately none of the men on our chief staff could speak French at all. That was unfortunate, and it was felt, I think, that the men who should be dealing with it should have a knowledge of French as well as English.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I think the witness is a little diffident about criticizing his staff. Was he the best man available at that time?