

Nova Scotia and the railway mail superintendent. I understand that, before this classification was made, the post office inspector was a superior officer to or of a higher rank than the railway mail superintendent, and possibly under this classification the post office inspector takes second position to or a lower position than the railway mail superintendent. That is not, I am sure, acceptable to the post office inspector in Nova Scotia, who is an official of a very high order and a very capable man, and who will not take kindly to being disgraced if that be the intention of this classification. I understand, further, that this classification would give the post office inspector a smaller salary than the salaries of some postmasters in Nova Scotia.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I do not think that could be so, at least, not in Nova Scotia. It might be smaller than the salaries of the postmasters at Montreal and Toronto.

Mr. McKENZIE: I wish to be very specific with the minister, because I am speaking of Nova Scotia matters which the minister understands very well. The postmaster in the city of Halifax gets a salary of \$4,000 a year, while the post office inspector for the whole province gets only the meagre salary of \$3,500. There was a day when \$3,500 was looked upon as a very respectable salary, but for a man occupying the position of post office inspector for the whole province, and particularly in view of the new duties that are thrown upon him under the Civil Service Act, a salary of \$3,500 is far from being sufficient. I need not tell the minister that the post office inspector for Nova Scotia is a man splendidly educated and very capable in every respect. That some of the postmasters who are under him should be receiving a larger salary than he, looks out of proportion and not as it ought to be. I trust the minister and the commission will see to it that the proper proportion and ratio and rank are held within his own sphere, so that the post office inspector will continue to hold the first position as he did heretofore in connection with postal matters in the province. I certainly think that the salary should be increased. Every hon. gentleman in this House will understand at once that under present conditions an official occupying the responsible and onerous position which this gentleman occupies is not sufficiently paid at \$3,500 a year.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I wish to associate myself with the statement made by the leader of the Opposition (Mr. McKenzie)

in regard to the post office inspector for Nova Scotia. I have had something to do with public affairs in Nova Scotia for a quarter of a century, and I have known this gentleman through all his official career. He is a painstaking and capable official, and the very best that could be done for him would not be too much for the department to do. I was surprised to learn that the postmaster in the city of Halifax gets a higher salary than the post office inspector for Nova Scotia, if that be the case. Those of us who live in Nova Scotia know that the postmaster in the city of Halifax has had no training at all in his profession; that he knew nothing about the business of postmaster until he was put in that position a few years ago, and it is not necessary for him to give it very much personal attention. In some respects it is a very easy position to fill, whereas the post office inspector has a greater responsibility and his position is much more difficult to fill than that of postmaster in any post office in the province. I trust the minister will see that this is rectified and that the post office inspector for Nova Scotia will have not only first rank in postal matters in that province, but the highest salary.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The fixing of salaries of officers in the public departments is difficult to determine with scientific accuracy. In fact, that is not possible, particularly when you endeavour to have them bear the same relation to other work that might correspond to that of the particular class in mind. Under the classification as it now stands, the maximum compensation for a post office inspector in Nova Scotia is \$4,020, and for the postmaster in the city of Halifax \$3,300, so the inspector is given the higher salary, which perhaps is as it should be.

Mr. McKENZIE: Do not the commissions in the post office bring the postmaster's salary up higher?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: It may be that the present postmaster at Halifax is in receipt of a salary of \$4,000. Under the Act, that cannot be taken away from him. The lower rate will apply only to his successor in office. In the original classification there was a higher range for the post office inspectors, and that was very satisfactory to all the post office inspectors throughout the Dominion, but a reduction has been made in the amended classification in order to bring about the proper relationship between the salaries of