

the moment they have to select from the list of successful candidates persons to fill appointments.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not gainsay the truth of what the First Minister has said—which I did not before understand—that the examinations for the first grades of the service allow men to enter up to 35 years of age. I thought the law fixed a younger age, and at all events, it would be a great improvement if such were done. In England, a candidate could not pass an entrance examination for the Civil Service if he was over twenty-four, unless he happened to be one of those persons brought in, as we bring them in, as possessing special qualifications. It is not desirable to encourage men of anything like the age the First Minister stated to become candidates for third-class clerkships at from \$400 to \$500 a year. But that particular evil could easily be remedied by making a different age limit.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is a matter for legislation.

Mr. CARON. The cases of Col. Bacon and Mr. Donaldson, to which the hon. member for Bothwell referred, come under the exceptional cases provided for by the Civil Service Act. Col. Bacon has been placed in charge of all the documents and title deeds relating to ordnance lands, succeeding Col. Walkem, who recently died, Col. Bacon's appointment being made owing to his knowledge of engineering and his ability as a draughtsman. Mr. Donaldson was transferred from "B" Battery at Kingston, where he was almost indispensable, to Ottawa, owing to his special knowledge of stores belonging to the artillery branch of the service, and this knowledge could only be attained by a service extending over a number of years in the British army. No qualifying examination or examination provided by the Civil Service Act would in any way qualify either of those gentlemen for the positions they now hold in the Militia Department.

Mr. MILLS. I suppose in that case that if either of these gentlemen die this particular branch of the public service will need to be abolished, because no person will be found capable of filling the place.

Mr. CARON. We would follow the same system as we did when Mr. Walkem died. If Col. Bacon dies I suppose we will find another gentleman in the service, as we did in his case, who would be transferred from one branch to the other.

Mr. BERGIN. It seems to me that this kind of criticism is very unfair, and that hon. gentlemen should know what they are talking about before attacking the Minister. Col. Bacon is one of the oldest officers in the Department, or in the militia service. He has been a Brigade Major for many years, and when he was at Montreal he came from the Grand Trunk to the militia service, and was one of the best engineers in the service of the company who left the Grand Trunk. He has very special qualifications for the office for which he was appointed; and I am only sorry that the Minister has not seen his way to appointing him to a still higher place in the service.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would like to ask the Secretary of State how he proposes to distribute this sum of \$4,750. I see that in last year's account the Civil Service Board are only down for \$500. This, of course, indicates a much more extensive system, and I would like to know who are the gentlemen appointed, and what sums they receive.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The amount voted last year by the House has been found inadequate to the work. The sum of \$5 per day for sixty days was what was voted by the House. It was perhaps found that what was given before was too much, and in the hurry of legislation last year the amount voted was too little, as the number of examinations, and

their length, is not entirely at the discretion of the examiners, but depends largely upon the number of applications, and consequently the number of places where examinations have to be held. Under the legislation which will be proposed we will ask that \$3 a day be given to the chief examiners, and \$5 a day—which was the old allowance—to the sub-examiners. This will add a certain sum to the amount voted last year. We have done the best to limit the amount expended as much as possible, as will be found by the report of the examiners.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Was the report brought down?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. Yes, within fifteen days of the beginning of the Session as required by Statute. The other day I was comparing the cost of the Civil Service Board and staff in the United States with that of Canada, and taking the population into account I found that the comparison appears very advantageous to the Dominion—in fact that it is here about 50 per cent. less, taking population into account, than what is spent there for the same purpose. Of course as we go on perfecting the system new expenditures will necessarily be required; but I can assure hon. gentlemen that not a penny more than is required for the work has been asked.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Are these examinations partly *viva voce*, or wholly by papers?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. Wholly by papers.

Mr. MILLS. Might I ask the Secretary of State if all who choose are at liberty to come before the Board for the purpose of being examined, or if they require to be recommended by some Minister?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I find that the hon. gentleman has not read the Statute and so I will explain it to him. Notice is given in due time of the examinations, and applications are made to the Board by candidates from all parts of the Dominion. The examinations are held at different places, according to the number of applications from each place; that is to say, if there were only two applicants, or a very small number, in a particular place, no examination would be held there. The examination papers are sent to the different places where the examinations are to be held, such as Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, St. John, Ottawa, London, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Victoria, &c. Three of the examiners each take one of the largest places, and they appoint sub-examiners. The sub-examiners distribute the papers to the candidates, and as the answers are given in writing, and as they have all to be re-examined here by the examiners, the hon. gentleman can see the amount of work which is to be done. So far as the examinations for promotion are concerned, they are held in the Department when vacancies occur; the parties make application and they are examined for promotion, and I may say that these examinations are of the character of competitive examinations for the Department. That is to say, every employé below the class where the vacancy occurs is allowed to compete and go for the promotion examination. That examination is more or less superintended, not by the Minister or the Deputy Minister, but according to the fitness of the candidate for the class of work required, by the sub-chief of the Department.

Mr. CASEY. I think the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) has scarcely hit the point he aimed at by the question; or else the Secretary of State has turned the shot aside. By this I do not mean to imply that my hon. friend's question was not properly put, or not well put; but the real evil at which the hon. gentleman wished to get by that question is further on, and deeper down than the working of this Act. I understand quite well, and probably he did, that no recommendation is required for entrance into these