

graph (b) of section ten of The Civil Service Act, chapter seventeen of the Revised Statutes, is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor:—

"b. No person shall be appointed to any place in the first or inside departmental division of the Civil Service—other than that of a deputy head, or controller of railway mail service or superintendent of railway mail service, or other officer or employee transferred from the outside service to the railway mail service branch—on probation or otherwise, whose age exceeds thirty-five years, or who has not attained the full age of fifteen years, in the case of a porter, messenger, or sorter, or the full age of eighteen years, in other cases."

2. Schedule B to the said Act is hereby amended by inserting before the words "railway mail clerks," the following words:—

"Controller of the rail mail service, salary not exceeding \$2,500;

"Superintendents of railway mail service, salary not exceeding \$1,500;"

2. The said schedule B is hereby further amended by inserting, under the sub-heading "clerks in city post office," between the words "letter-carriers" and "messengers" the words "Sorters and Stampers."

Mr. Mulock says that as the Civil Service Act now stands, there is no medium grade between \$400 and \$1,100, and he wants to provide that men who are simply engaged in sorting and stamping letters might be paid at a grade between those two, according to what they are now. The clause providing for the second class clerks has been repealed, and there are no second class clerks now. There is no provision made for officers who might earn a sum between \$400 and \$1,100, and what he says is there are a number of persons appointed from time to time as sorters and stampers, and it seems unreasonable to give them \$1,100.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Does the hon. gentleman tell us there is no power in the Postmaster General or the government to regulate the salaries between \$400 and \$1,100?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, the second class clerk is abolished.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—But a man is appointed third class clerk at \$400, and under the system he receives his \$50 increment every year until he reaches \$1,000. Are these a different class, or are these men appointed to do work, who have passed no examination? Who are they?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Sorters and stampers, who do no other work but sort and stamp.

There are a large number of them, and they are appointed from time to time, and the Postmaster General was quite anxious they should be classed.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Are they subject to examination?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think not.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think they are. Do I understand that this is to give power to the Post master General for the raising of a man's salary who gets only \$400 at present? The Secretary of State does not seem to understand that because that is what he implied.

Hon. Mr. COX—It classifies the sorters, stampers and letter carriers all together.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Do they pass the examinations?

Hon. Mr. COX—Yes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—What is the maximum salary they are to be paid, or does this bill give any further power to increase it?

Hon. Mr. COX—\$600.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—I do not see that we require to make any change in the present law under those circumstances. If those persons now enter the service and their salary can go up to \$600, why should a man, whose duty is only mechanical, stamping letters or anything of that kind, go on having his salary increased and be promoted from third class clerk and so on to a first class clerk, when his work can be performed by any person who receives an ordinary day's pay, and who is not really of any higher qualification than a day labourer? I think there is a very great injustice in the provisions of the Civil Service Act as it has been administered for some time past, and we can go into any of the departmental offices here and find persons receiving a salary over \$1,000 whose work is merely clerk's work, mechanical work, which might be done by a young man or by an old man who would be very glad to get that work to perform for one-third of the salary some of these people are receiving. On the other hand, there may be persons who are qualified to fill a much higher office receiving only the salary that a