

men opposite may give to the electors in the way of resolutions and fine sentiments, to be entirely disregarded in practical work, or whether it is to be made an efficient rule.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think I may say to my hon. friend who has just taken his seat that it is all talk as to the part which Mr. Allan, the gentleman to whom he no doubt refers, took at the convention in the county of York. Mr. Allan was not present at the convention. I was there but—

Mr. DANIEL. They had a lively time there.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Mr. Allan had nothing to do with the matter. There was a very lively interest taken in the nomination of the candidates; I was glad to see that the names of three very prominent and popular gentlemen were submitted to the convention and there seemed to be a very strong feeling among the friends of all the candidates that whoever would be chosen would be sure to carry the constituency, and that is perhaps why more interest was taken in the convention than is ordinarily the case, especially where it is not thought that the candidate has much chance of success. So far as Mr. Allan is concerned I may say, having been in the county, that I do not think there was anything in his conduct which was at all inconsistent with the position which he occupies in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. Of course, as Mr. Allan had contested the county some years ago and is a very popular man there, hon. gentlemen will understand that he would quite naturally have friends who would be desirous of having him nominated as a candidate. Had he been nominated I am quite sure he would have felt it his duty to immediately resign his position on the Intercolonial, but I can assure my hon. friends that he took no part in the convention. With reference to New Brunswick matters, with which my hon. friend is less familiar than he used to be, I would suggest that he should not accept all that he sees in the newspapers, particularly the partisan papers representing his side of politics as the truth.

Mr. FOSTER. I have taken that lesson much to heart, and certain things that were stated in the papers as having been said by gentlemen high in administrative circles, I have learned to treat with little attention and to give but little adhesion to.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I wish to say a word or two partly in support of what the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) has said. He has expressed a desire that the government should give some expression of opinion as to whether or not there is a policy with regard to Dominion officials entering into the arena of Dominion or local politics. I take it that the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) disapproves en-

Mr. FOSTER.

tirely of the idea that any one in the employ of the government should participate in party affairs or should seek office at the hands of electors as a party candidate. In this he is apparently enunciating the policy of his party and I wish to refer to a case in my own constituency, about which I did not intend to complain and do not now complain, but since my hon. friend is anxious about this matter I may say that in my own constituency an employee of this government has certainly taken a very active part in politics. He has been the candidate of his party in a political fight; he has been successful, but no complaint has been made by anybody on behalf of his party, and I hope that the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) will see that a complaint is made.

Mr. BERGERON. I cannot hear a word of what you say.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I did not intend it for you.

Mr. BERGERON. Speak louder, we cannot appreciate it.

Department of the Interior—salaries, \$190,012.50; contingencies, \$36,900.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). The sum of \$182,050 was voted for civil government salaries for the fiscal year 1907-8, and it has been estimated that it will require \$190,012.50 for this service for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1909, an increase of \$7,962.50. This increase includes statutory increases provided for clerks eligible for the same, \$4,924; promotion of J. M. Roberts and T. Marchand to chief clerkships at \$1,000, \$3,800; of A. R. Morrissette to a second-class clerkship at \$1,200, or \$5,000 for these three promotions. There is also a difference in estimating for the salaries of three third-class clerks. This gives a total increase of something over \$10,000, but there is \$2,000 deduction to be made from this on account of the salaries of the gentlemen promoted in their former ranks, leaving the net increase at \$7,962.50.

Mr. J. D. REID. Is Wagner still in the employ of your department?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. J. D. REID. Is he getting any increase this year?

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Wagner's salary does not come under the head of civil government.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. How many officials are there altogether in the inside service of the Department of the Interior?

Mr. OLIVER. One hundred and forty-nine.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. How many were there this time last year?