

they occupied themselves about, while the volunteers were fighting for 50 cents a day. If we had had at that time some proper system organized with such men as I have named at the head of it, if such a system had been organized in advance, I am satisfied the country would have saved two million dollars in that North-west campaign alone.

Then there is another point that I take the liberty of suggesting to the Minister. On the 24th of May, the 1st of July and Thanksgiving Day, it is the custom in many localities for the volunteer officers to meet at their own expense. I would suggest to the Minister the advisability of passing a vote so that any corps that was regularly called out, or which regularly turned out, having first obtained the authority of the department therefor, when such corps turns out for a field day under proper command on either of the days mentioned, each member should receive his day's pay. Now, on the 24th of May the celebration in Ottawa, I believe, is likely to be a failure owing to the fact that many of the volunteers cannot afford the expense to come from a distance to take part in it. I suggest that the department take a vote of a few thousand dollars, \$5,000 or \$6,000 would cover the need for the whole of Canada. I am satisfied that the country would reap much more than that value of benefit from having the volunteers turn out.

Mr. WALLACE. I think that the explanation made by the Minister of Militia and Defence will hardly be considered satisfactory by the House. His last attempt to bluff off inquiry was by saying that as to the charge of nepotism, those on this side should be the last to raise that question. I do not think that would be accepted by the House or by the country, either as an answer to the charge of appointing his own relation, which perhaps is not a crime, or to the circumstances which accompany this appointment. I contend that in that appointment, the law of the land has been violated. The law requires that appointees to the civil service, except certain specified appointments, shall have passed the civil service examination, under those requisite qualifications, excepting unspecified cases. The cases specified are as follows:—

When the deputy head of a department in which a vacancy occurs reports, for reasons set forth in such report:

(a) That the qualifications requisite for such office or employment are wholly or in part professional or technical;

(b) That the requisite qualifications are not possessed by any person then in the service of the department; and

(c) That it would be for the public interest that the examination herein provided for should, as regards such vacancy, be wholly or partially dispensed with;

The Governor in Council may, without reference to the age of the person, if the head of the department concurs in such report, select and

Mr. HUGHES.

appoint such person as is deemed best fitted to fill the vacancy, subject to such examination as is suggested in the report.

Was there any examination held in this case? There was not. Then the law was violated in that instance, because it says there shall be an examination, not a full examination, if it were, none of these cases would be applicable. But I find in that case the examination has been held. But are we to be told here that these qualifications are professional or technical. What are the qualifications of an accountant? Why, that is the occupation of a large portion of the civil service in Ottawa, doing accountant's work. In every branch of the public service here in Ottawa there is a staff of accountants. In the Department of Militia we are told that there is a great deal of work to be done, and there should be a branch, and I suppose there is, to cope with that work.

A statement has been made that there was no one in that department fitted for the position, that the training other officials had received under Mr. O'Meara did not qualify them to carry on the work after Mr. O'Meara's superannuation. I decline to believe that such is the fact, in the absence of any evidence, none of which has been produced so far. The appointment was made; the requisite qualifications were not possessed by any other person in the department. The statement had to be made by some one that the qualifications had to be professional or technical. They were not professional or technical any more than the qualifications of civil servants are of that class. It may be that in some department a doctor is required; and in the Department of Inland Revenue a chemist is sometimes needed, and then the qualifications are distinctly technical. In some departments a legal adviser may be needed, and his qualifications are technical. Looking at the Auditor General's Report, it will be seen that a large number of the departments are occupied in doing what, for the purpose of this appointment, is called technical work. I contend that the law has been distinctly violated in this appointment. But the Minister says this new officer is the best man in the civil service. I characterize that statement as a piece of bombast. A gentleman who has not spent one-fourth of the time since his appointment in performing his duties, is not in a position to say what are the qualifications of every officer in every department; and in making that statement he was simply making a bombastic utterance when he could have no knowledge as to the truthfulness or untruthfulness of his statement. What do we find the Minister doing? He said in the innocence of his heart that he could not offer this officer this office at a less salary. I presume he means that he had offered him a less figure. There are differ-