

Committee—that Grade 3 should be divided into two grades.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Mr. Chairman, this matter was not put before me in time to enable me to give it consideration, and I therefore desire to withdraw the amendment. I do not want to confuse the Committee in the matter.

Amendment withdrawn.

Mr. DEVLIN: I have received a number of communications with regard to this classification; I have no doubt that every member of the House has received similar communications. I want to place them before the minister in some way, but it will take some time to read them.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I am likely to have copies of them, anyway; so we can take them as read.

Mr. DEVLIN: All right; I will see the minister personally.

Mr. DUFF: Section 43 says that "appointments to the Civil Service shall be upon competitive examination." I have received through the mail during the last few days a list nearly as long as my arm of fishery officers required—thirty-seven fishery officers for the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, for the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. While it may be possible for the members of the Civil Service Commission, their secretary and the other officials of the department, to make some appointments by competitive examination, I seriously contend that it is impossible to appoint proper fishery officers by this method.

Let us see what the qualifications are, and I trust, Sir, I shall be within the rules of the House in reading what I am going to read, and you will not have to call me to order. This is what it says:

Thirty-seven fishery overseers for the Fisheries Branch of the Department of the Naval Service at a minimum salary of \$1,020 per annum. Candidates must have primary school education, preferably with high school training; general knowledge of fisheries; experience in and detailed knowledge of fish canning methods; ability to prepare clear and concise reports; supervisory ability; tact and good judgment. Applicants for these positions should not be more than thirty-five years of age.

These are the subjects and the marks which they must obtain on the examination:

Examinations will be held on the 24th October, subjects and weights as follows. (1) Writing, 50; (2) Spelling, 50; (3) Arithmetic, 100; (4)

[Mr. McQuarrie.]

Report, writing, 100; (5) Knowledge of Fisheries, 200; (6) Fish Canning Methods, 200; (7) Experience, 200.

While it may be possible in one case out of a thousand to get a good fishery officer who would be able to pass these examinations, my candid opinion is that the man who would make the best fishery overseer for any one of these places—and none of them is in my constituency—is the man with the least education and the most practical experience in the fisheries. It is absolutely impossible for the gentlemen comprising the Civil Service Commission to make these appointments at Ottawa by competitive examinations, and some other method should be adopted.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: In justice to the commission I should say that the qualifications are established by the department and not by the commission. The commission carries out the examinations after the departments have established the qualifications. I should not like to go so far as my hon. friend and say that the best fishery officer is the man without education, but I can quite conceive it to be true that possibly the best fishery officer might be one who had very little educational qualifications but who had the experience. I am sure that is what my hon. friend meant. There is a great deal in his observation upon the point, and I wish he would communicate it to the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. DUFF: I am afraid it would not do much good to communicate it to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. If the commission is not responsible for the necessary qualifications, of course, I shall apologize to the commission. But you are not going to get the best class of fishery overseers if they have to pass this examination, and the Department of Naval Affairs, or the Department of Fisheries, or the commission, should take some steps to eliminate these examinations if they expect to get the best fishery overseers for the Maritime Provinces or any other province, and I think I know what I am speaking about when I make that statement.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I must confess that I think these qualifications might, in some cases, be abandoned altogether.

Mr. McKENZIE: I wish to make a few observations in regard to the question of classification and more particularly in reference to post office inspectors. In order to make the matter more direct, let me take up the question of the post office inspector in