

the Heads of the Departments. So far as my experience goes the Ministers exercise very good judgment in the selection of men.

Q. What is the number of men in the inside land branch?—Seventeen.

Q. Are the outside land agents appointed here or where they are situated?—The principal agent for _____ was sent from here. The branch agents were appointed from the head agency in Manitoba, on the recommendation of myself or the Minister.

Q. Primarily the recommendation was by some member?—No; there has been very little pressure brought to bear—indeed none successfully—to force people into these offices or into the Branch office at Winnipeg who are incompetent.

Q. But were those who were appointed put in on account of the recommendations of a Minister, or did the suggestion come from inside the office?—Yes; they were experienced in the routine of the branch.

Q. How many do you generally employ in your inside branch?—The number varies in accordance with the requirements of the Public Service. This year past we have only had eight or nine surveyors, whereas some years we employ 50.

Q. Do the parties pick their own men?—Yes; part of the service is by contract, but the more important surveys are conducted by agents paid by the day. They are allowed to select their own parties, except one or two officers of the staff, who are appointed, they having in view the following of surveying as a profession.

Q. These all require a good education?—Yes.

Q. Do you examine them?—No; the right to survey Dominion lands is given by law, and a part of that law makes it necessary that they pass an examination, which is fixed, and on passing it they receive a commission which entitles them to be Dominion Land surveyors.

Q. So that, practically, there is an examination?—Oh, certainly. At present we have an enactment by which we are in a position to provide a superior class of surveyors, men capable of conducting highly scientific surveys, explorations, and operations of that kind.

Q. Are those gentlemen about on a par as to salary, or are they graded?—The only grade is between the best class of surveyors who are employed in blocking out the country into townships. They receive \$6 a day and expenses. But the other surveyors get a mileage rate which, in prairie country enables them to make as good money as block surveyors, but not in a wooded country. At any rate we look upon the two classes as distinct, and the block surveyors are considered the best.

Q. So there is not much chance of promotion?—There is no promotion as far as surveying is concerned, as it is merely a question of how much work a man may be able to get from the Government.

Q. That is a matter outside your individual province and regulated at the pleasure of the Minister?—Exactly. The Minister is usually applied to by members of Parliament or influential friends in regard to the employment of a certain individual. The Minister usually consults me as to whether the person in whose favor the application is made is worthy of being employed. If he is, other things being equal, he gets the preference.

Q. The employment of those men, of course, generally goes in the same way?—Yes.

Q. You look upon it as employment and not appointment?—Yes. One man is sometimes only employed two or three months in the year; another man possessed of special qualifications, and who can command good influence, may be employed from year to year.

Q. What is your opinion of the general results of political nominations to positions.—I think the present system of appointments in the Civil Service is not a good one.

By Mr. Roscoe:—

Q. You mean the Civil Service generally?—Yes.

Q. You mean the inside service?—Yes.