

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. Let us take a couple of concrete examples, so as to illustrate it. There is one of your branches?—A. We have the steamship inspection branch. We have the Commissioner of Light Branch.

Q. Who is in charge of your Steamship Inspection Branch?—A. Mr. Macdonald.

Q. We will presume that Mr. Macdonald resigns and you will have a large file of the branch in there?—A. Yes.

Q. With some person in charge of that branch?—A. Yes.

Q. We will assume these two men resign and both positions have to be filled?—A. Yes.

Q. What is the objection to the plan, as I understand it, adopted by the Commission, that any man eligible for promotion, and they have a system of rating for all these men.—A. How do they know who are eligible for promotion?

Q. I thought it was all fixed in the classification?—A. It cannot be because a man who is eligible for promotion to the position of steamboat inspector must pass a technical examination on which the Civil Service Commission is not competent to sit.

Q. Probably I got an unfortunate example.

Mr. FORAN: They always get that information from the deputy head.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. Let us assume in this particular case you are asked to state persons in your department who are eligible for promotion. You state those, say a dozen in each case; then the Commission set to work to give each of these parties a rating. I suppose there is a written examination. They know the length of time they are in the service, they know the work they are doing and they are all rated?—A. How can they rate them?

Q. I don't know.—A. They cannot do it.

Q. As a result of this examination and rating, and so on, finally they select some person?—A. Yes.

Q. What is your main objection to that process?—A. My main objection is that they don't know when they select a man for that position. They are not competent to select a man for that position.

*By Mr. Currie:*

Q. Perhaps we better take a smaller case. Take the case of a head clerk.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. Take your chief filing man in your branch?—A. They would be in a case of that kind.

*By Mr. Currie:*

Q. Supposing there were half a dozen clerks in one department, a clerk comes along, that the head clerk who is in a higher classification has stepped out and gone to British Columbia or some place, to farm, for instance, and it comes to putting somebody in his place. Now the Commission will know how many clerks in that department have a certificate for the higher service. We will say three of them have it?—A. Yes.

Q. You have been going around through that department in the long summer evenings and you see a fellow in this department doing his work and he has not got that certificate, does he get the job? The fellow that has the certificate gets out on the links, and gets the job, doesn't he?—A. If he happens to be successful in getting a higher rating. I don't know the basis on which the Civil Service Commission—

[Mr. Alexander Johnston.]