

Hon. Mr. POWER—I am only speaking of what has been actually intimated to the officers in my own province. The senior mail clerk is taken, provided he is qualified, and made deputy or local head of the mail service, and there is no increase to the staff. It is not proposed that there shall be any increase to the staff in Nova Scotia; whether the controller is to be an additional officer or not I do not know, but the local superintendents are not, I understand. This is introducing the system which exists in the United States and which the permanent officers of the department think is the better system.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—No.

Hon. Mr. POWER—As I understand it, the bill, as we have it now, met with no opposition in the House of Commons. There was opposition to a clause which undertook to authorize the Postmaster General to make contracts without asking for tenders for the carriage of the mails. That clause was dropped by the Postmaster General, and the bill was then allowed to pass.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Could the hon. gentleman tell me whether the position vacated by the officer who is appointed controller is to be filled or not? I understand the gentleman has already been selected from the service in Toronto, and from what I can learn he is a very good officer. But if his position in Toronto is to be filled, it is one addition to the staff. Are the places of the superintendents who are selected from the mail service to be filled?

Hon. Mr. POWER—No.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Then that is an evidence that there are too many in the service now, because they perform certain duties. I am only discussing the economic part. I asked my hon. friend the former Postmaster General, from London (Sir John Carling), his opinion as to this bill, and he thinks it is a good thing that an organization will be effected under this bill by which you can direct from headquarters the operations all over the country, without that friction which arises from the constant bickerings which take place in the different sections. If the Postmaster General can carry out the provisions of that bill without adding to the staff, then I think he will have effected a good reform.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—But it must be the duty of the Postmaster General now to direct all these officers of the department. It is just taking a certain duty away from the Postmaster General, and appointing other officers to assist in carrying it out.

Hon. Mr. COX—I am authorized by the Postmaster General to say that there will be no new appointments at all, and there will be a very substantial saving under this bill, besides much greater efficiency in the service.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I think that is all it is for, to create greater efficiency. The main provisions of the bill are in operation at the present time, and are working very well, and I do not think it is intended to cause any increase in the civil service whatever.

Hon. Mr. CLEMON—Does not the inspector now control all these subordinate inspectors?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Mr. CLEMON—I think it is his duty to control them. He is a very efficient man, and I have great confidence in him. I think he is the man before all others who would perform that duty remarkably well. That duty might rest in his hands altogether.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I hope the Minister of Justice will inform the Postmaster General that if he brings down an important bill of this kind at so late period, next session, that we will throw it out.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

## CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

### FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (130) "An Act further to amend the Civil Service Act."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of the bill. He said:—The bill reads:

1. The paragraph substituted by section one of chapter fifteen of the statutes of 1895, for para-