

Mr. FOSTER. Can the hon. gentleman not see a difference between a man who is in his first year in the secretaryship, and a man who has been in it many years ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. When the hon. gentleman first paid Mr. Hall \$2,800, the number of letters written in the department was 60,680, while last year, the number was 186,899.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister has established his case ; Mr. Keyes has written 186,899 letters.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not say that.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not believe you can establish that Mr. Keyes writes a single letter more than Mr. Hall did. In fact, neither of them writes the letters.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not object to the questions of the hon. gentleman, but I would appeal to him, if it is fair to put words into my mouth that I did not use. I said that I simply wished to show by these figures the increased business of the department ; and even if the secretary does not write these letters, he is responsible for them.

Mr. CLANCY. Upon the same ground, has the hon. gentleman increased the salary of every clerk in the department ? Because they all had their share of the increased work.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. We have asked increases for a number of them. The duties and responsibilities of all the officers have not increased in the same proportion.

Mr. FOSTER. Does Mr. Keyes's name as secretary, go at the foot of every one of these 186,000 letters ? I think the minister is under the impression that Mr. Keyes reads all these letters, or signs them all.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think that Mr. Keyes does a bit more because the number of letters has increased.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The business of the department has increased largely, and consequently the duties of these officers.

Mr. FOSTER. It is an indefensible increase. Who is the accountant ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The late accountant, Mr. Pinard, died. He received a salary of \$2,350. His assistant, Mr. Beddoe, was promoted. He was receiving \$1,800, and now gets \$1,850.

Mr. FOSTER. Why did Mr. Beddoe only get his statutory increase. Mr. Keyes was promoted to the maximum of a first-class clerk, and given \$50 increase. And Mr. Beddoe was only given the \$50 increase over his former salary. Why was he treated differently from Mr. Keyes ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

The PRIME MINISTER. To prevent the criticism of my hon. friend.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Beddoe has been in the service since 1883, and all he got on his promotion was an increase of \$50, although he took the place of a man who was getting \$2,350. Is it because he had not the pull that Mr. Keyes had. What about the increase to Mr. King ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not think that any exception can be taken to the increase of \$100 to Mr. King, the chief astronomer.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. King is a very competent man ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Would you think he was as competent as Mr. Keyes ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. For his particular duties he is very much more competent, but he has not anything like the hours or the responsibility of the other man.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. King is a man of the highest class of technical service, but he has to be satisfied with \$2,200. But Mr. Keyes, who has none of these qualifications, but is simply a clerk, gets \$850 of an increase, and is made chief clerk at the maximum of a chief clerk's salary. Is that a fair way of rewarding real merit ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am willing to admit that, so far as Mr. King is concerned, he is a man of exceeding ability, but I think there is a very great difference between him and Mr. Keyes in the hours and class of work, and that sort of thing.

Mr. FOSTER. No doubt the difference is that Mr. King does not do the work Mr. Keyes does, and consequently has not the big pull. He is simply a scientific man.

Mr. CLANCY. We had the Minister of Agriculture the other day urging an increase on the ground of technical qualifications, but here we have the acting Minister of the Interior saying that such qualifications do not count for as much as qualifications of an inferior kind.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is Mr. White ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He is the geographer in the department. We are giving him \$1,800. He was transferred from the Geological Department at that figure, but through some error last year the proper amount was not voted him, and I will have to ask for \$200 to be paid him out of the supplementary estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. How long has Mr. White been in the service ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Fifteen years, and he is a very competent man, highly recommended by Mr. Dawson.