

Mr. HAGGART. Will the hon. gentleman tell me whether any one but a first-class clerk can be appointed chief architect—whether he considers that it is open to him to make a selection from outside the service?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not give any attention to that question, but my intention is to keep Mr. Ewart. I have no desire to change him at all. So far I have found him to be a very faithful officer.

Mr. HAGGART. Surely the hon. gentleman will be able to answer this question, whether under the law the appointment of chief architect should be made from the first-class clerks.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have not considered that question.

Mr. REID. I would like to ask the Minister if Mr. Belliveau was on the permanent list?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. He was.

Mr. REID. Was he paying into the superannuation fund?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No: he had not been ten years in the service. He had only been in two years, if I remember rightly.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Will the hon. gentleman say why he dismissed Mr. Thériault, Mr. Durocher, and Mr. Champagne in preference to others in the department?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Mr. Champagne was a messenger. I found two messengers, Mr. DesRivières and Mr. Lepage, who were paid \$500 a year, employed as copyists instead of as messengers. I brought them down to the work for which they are paid. Mr. Champagne was then no longer necessary and I dispensed with his services. As to Belliveau, Thériault and Durocher, I found that I could do without their services. As a matter of fact, I dispensed with the services of some others, not from any political reasons, but because I did not need them.

Mr. HAGGART. But the hon. gentleman asks us to appoint another, Mr. DesBrisay, whom he takes from another department.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. He has been appointed in the place of another man, Mr. Verreault, whom I was obliged to dismiss because he was not a useful employee. Mr. DesBrisay is a very able man, and so far he has proved very useful.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman got rid of two whom he had not a word to say against and whom he does not pretend to say were not perfectly efficient. Why not have retained them instead of bringing Mr. DesBrisay over from the Privy Council?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not retain them because they were certainly not of the class Mr. DesBrisay is. He is an exceptionally able man.

Mr. FOSTER. Has my hon. friend no compunctions of conscience in depriving the Privy Council and his leader of the services of so able a man?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). If my hon. friend wants to part with him and I have a vacancy, I would be very glad to have him in my department. Politically he is a very bad man, but otherwise he is a very good officer.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. He is not so bad as my hon. friend thinks.

Mr. CASGRAIN. When will we be able to discuss Mr. Charleson's appointment?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. As soon as my estimates come, I will be glad to give my hon. friend the opportunity he wants.

Resolutions to be reported.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 5th May, 1897.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 94) to commemorate the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria by making her birthday a perpetual holiday (from the Senate).—Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

Bill (No. 96) to amend the law respecting Controverted Elections.—(Mr. Bell, Pictou.)

CRIMINAL LIBEL.

Mr. DAVIN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 95) to amend the law of Libel.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Explain.

Mr. DAVIN. The object of this Bill is to prevent a person accused of libel and pleading justification from—after he has set out the facts in the plea of justification, and