

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. An Order in Council was passed by the late Government—I cannot give the exact date of it, as I did not know the hon. gentleman would bring the matter up—but it was some time after the salary of Mr. Smith was reduced from \$5,000 to \$4,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Between the 5th and the 10th of January.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. An Order in Council was passed by the late Government during the month of January, in which it was provided, that when Mr. Smith should retire, the term of five years should be added to his superannuation allowance. The present advisers of His Excellency did not see fit to add anything to his term, although they did not see fit to rescind what seemed to them to be, after a manner, an obligation entered into by the late Government. It should be said, however, that the late Government had no power to bind their successors, nor to bind themselves, as to what they should do when Mr. Smith should be placed on the retired list. Although the Order in Council was said to have been passed when some of the former advisers of His Excellency were temporarily not performing their duties, still it was an Order in Council, and we therefore recognized it and permitted Mr. Smith to have the benefit of the additional five years.

Mr. HAGGART. Who has been appointed to the extra first-class clerkship which the Minister asks for?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not created an extra first-class clerkship.

Mr. HAGGART. You have. You have taken Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Henry; you had eleven before and that makes twelve.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There has been no appointment.

Mr. HAGGART. Then there is a vacancy.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If Mr. Rothwell is appointed law clerk at a fixed salary, the effect will be to create a vacancy, but I have no intention of appointing any one to that vacancy, because I do not think it necessary to do so.

Mr. HAGGART. Then why do you ask for the vote?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will examine into the contention of the hon. gentleman later, and if he is correct I will ask to have the vote reduced.

Mr. HAGGART. Let the item stand.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Very good.

Mr. HUGHES.

Mr. HAGGART. Is this gentleman who is appointed law clerk, and who the Minister says is a member of a legal society, a barrister or solicitor?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I am informed that he is a solicitor for the province of Ontario.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. You ought to know, you appointed him.

Mr. HAGGART. Not as a law clerk.

Mr. FOSTER. The Minister has not exhausted the list of explanations on these rather serious breaches of the Civil Service Act. There is a man by the name of Dunnet there. The Minister may have an explanation on that; he has "done it" too often.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will give a brief sketch of Mr. Dunnet's history, as I think it will appeal to the sympathies of the hon. gentleman. Mr. Dunnet entered the service in 1878; in 1893 he passed the civil service examination, and he has therefore been in the service as a temporary and permanent clerk for nineteen years. During that time he succeeded in getting his salary raised to \$650. Mr. Dunnet came to me thinking that he had been—not exactly unfairly dealt with—but thinking that his merits as a servant did not receive that attention that they ought to receive, and after careful consideration of his case I thought he was entitled to a reasonable increase in his salary. After a gentleman has been a faithful servant for nineteen years, I do not think it can be said that the salary of \$850 is excessive.

Mr. SPROULE. When was H. H. Smith superannuated?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. His superannuation took effect on the 1st of April.

Mr. SPROULE. I notice that in two of these cases, you have not only given the clerks a statutory increase of \$50 each, but you have actually doubled that statutory allowance. Has the department adopted the new principle, that while withholding the ordinary statutory increases from civil servants generally, they will reserve to themselves the right to increase in any particular case and to any extent they like?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They recommend it to the House.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have come to the conclusion, which I think can be very well maintained to the satisfaction of the House, that the Minister in charge of a department is in a much better posi-