

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I did not suppose it required an explanation as there is a decrease of \$1,275.

Mr. FOSTER. That is so extraordinary that I should have thought the right hon. gentleman would be on his feet at once.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The explanation is that one of the officers has been dropped and there has been a promotion of one or two of the clerks. Last year there were two first-class clerks, this year one. There were six junior clerks, one has been promoted and the other has been dropped. I do not remember the names but the promotions have been made by way of seniority.

Mr. FOSTER. They have been all by seniority?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. So far as I remember, yes.

Department of Militia and Defence—salaries, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act, \$63,500; contingencies, \$12,000.

Mr. FOSTER. We are at a disadvantage inasmuch as the parts of the Auditor General's Report already brought down do not cover these items of civil government.

Mr. FIELDING. There are several of the departments not included in the volume brought down, and if the hon. gentleman wishes them to stand over it is a reasonable request.

Mr. TAYLOR. This item is not in the report brought down.

Mr. FIELDING. That is correct.

Mr. FOSTER. I think this should stand.

Mr. FIELDING. Very well.

Department of the Secretary of State—salaries, \$46,387.50; contingencies, \$7,500.

Mr. FIELDING. The Secretary of State informs me that there is no increase in the staff. One junior second-class clerk will be dropped and replaced by a third-class clerk. The statutory increases only are asked for.

Mr. FOSTER. And the statutory increases are all given?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. Have you the names of the clerks whose salaries have been increased?

Mr. FIELDING. No, but I think I can safely say that every clerk who is eligible has received the statutory increase. I know that is the general rule.

Mr. BERGERON. Does that apply to officers in all classes.

Mr. FIELDING. Wherever an officer has not reached the maximum of his class he gets the statutory increase.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. BERGERON. And no new clerks have been appointed?

Mr. FIELDING. The Secretary of State informs me there is no increase of staff whatever.

Mr. HENDERSON. What is meant by 'clerical assistance;' by whom is that work performed; are the persons who render it members of the civil service; have they passed the examination or are they persons taken in to do this temporary work.

Mr. FIELDING. In this case they would have to be persons qualified under the Civil Service law.

Mr. HENDERSON. And they are so qualified?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes. Unless the words 'Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act' are mentioned, the Act must apply.

Department of Public Printing and Stationery—salaries, \$44,475; contingencies, \$9,100.

Mr. FIELDING. The Secretary of State who has charge of this branch informs me that one junior second-class clerk is dropped, the statutory increases account for the difference between this vote and the net decrease of \$135.

Mr. BENNETT. Is Mr. P. M. Draper in the employ of the Printing Bureau?

Mr. FIELDING. I cannot tell; I shall have to get information for my hon. friend.

Mr. BENNETT. I understand that this Mr. Draper is a candidate for what is known as the Board of Control in this city. What is the policy of the department in that respect? In some parts of the province of Ontario intimation has been given that public officials must not be municipal candidates. How is it then that we have a municipal candidate in Ottawa in the person of a gentleman who has a leading position in the Printing Bureau. Has the minister ever heard of Mr. P. M. Draper?

Mr. FIELDING. I have seen the gentleman's name occasionally in the press, but I was not aware until now that he was in the service. My official tells me, that he knows from his general knowledge of the public service that Mr. Draper is an officer of the Printing Bureau. I am informed that some gentlemen in the service are engaged in municipal affairs, so that it is quite evident that there can be no such rule as my hon. friend refers to.

Mr. BENNETT. However, the hearty concurrence of the department is with Mr. Draper in his present candidature.

Mr. FIELDING. I really do not know. If the gentleman happened to be a candidate in the ward in which I live I would not like to guarantee that I would vote for him. I would have to hear both sides.