

A man may be in the first class of the civil service but may be lowered to a lower grade and if his salary was reduced with his grading his superannuation would be computed in proportion. The Superannuation Act provides that superannuation shall be based upon the average salary for the last three years of the officer's tenure in office. It is so rare a thing to lower an officer in status that the clause may perhaps serve as a little warning, but I do not think it will ever have any other effect. The whole tendency in the public service is to be lenient and therefore I hardly think it is a practical question.

On section 7,

Mr. CLARKE. What is the effect of this?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The section that is referred to here, provides for classes who are exempt from passing the promotion examination. This adds to that section the words 'sorters and stampers' so that they also will be exempt from passing promotion examinations.

Mr. CLARKE. The effect will be to do away with the necessity of passing the civil service examination.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Where an officer is doing work of this kind he undergoes a certain examination by the higher officials in the office to see whether he is familiar with the work of the department.

Mr. HAGGART. Does this allow a sorter or stamper to be promoted to a third-class clerkship?

SIR WILLIAM MULOCK. It is not dealing with that feature at present. A stamper or sorter or any one in the service who wants a promotion will have to undergo an examination provided by the civil service Act. It is the view of the department that when it comes to men who are doing post-office work inside, the examination should not be a civil service examination but an examination by the officers of the department on the work they are going to do. We have a provision in the Act for examining these officers when they are being promoted, for examining them departmentally.

Mr. HAGGART. Virtually what I said is correct; you do not need an examination unless you are promoting the man to a clerkship. The object of it is to allow a sorter or stamper to be made a third-class clerk without any other than a technical examination in the office as to his duties.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Of course he has had to pass some examination in order to enter the service.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me that this section practically annuls the provision of the Civil Service Act; and if it should apply to this branch, you would think that

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.

it might apply with equal propriety to almost every other branch.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I do not know about other branches, but I know that in the Post Office Department what we chiefly require is men who understand the technical work of the post office. When a man has been appointed stamper and assorter, he has commenced his career, and before being transferred to a higher class, he should be examined departmentally. That is the object of this clause.

On section 8—chief post office superintendent's salary,

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The present law fixes the salary at \$3,000 a year on appointment, no more and no less. The appointee is therefore appointed to the maximum at once. By this provision the maximum is raised from \$3,000 to \$3,500, the minimum being \$3,000, with an annual increase of \$100 till the maximum is attained. Section agreed to.

On section 10—transportation expenses of letter-carriers.

Mr. CLARKE. What is the necessity of this legislation?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The object is rather apparent. Street railway companies enjoy a monopoly, and in some instances are very exacting; and this is a method by which we can perhaps secure the performance of the service satisfactorily, and without having to submit to exactions.

Mr. HAGGART. What is the amount you have to pay now to street railways for transporting letter-carriers? Does it average \$50 a year?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I could not say.

Mr. HAGGART. Where are you entitled to free transportation?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. In Winnipeg only.

Mr. CLARKE. How will that work out practically? Will the hon. gentleman cite a case where this clause would become operative?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. In every city except Winnipeg where we have a letter-carrier delivery system.

Mr. CLARKE. Take the case of Toronto. I suppose the company there charge the government a bulk sum for the right to send its letter-carriers on the cars to their various routes. Will it be optional to the letter-carrier to say whether he will avail himself of the \$50 or not?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. No. The interest of the service will determine it.

Section agreed to.