

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes; that is the only reduction in the department.

Department of Public Works \$48,600

Mr. FOSTER. Please explain.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). I am asking \$3,940 less than last year, and the reason is that I have dispensed with the services of Mr. Lightfoot, a first-class clerk, drawing a salary of \$1,800. I have also dispensed with the services of the following third-class clerks: Mr. Durocher, Mr. Marion, Mr. Belliveau and Mr. Champagne.

Mr. FOSTER. How is the Chief Architect \$200 less?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Mr. Fuller, the Chief Architect, has been superannuated, and I only give \$3,000 to Mr. Ewart, who is acting chief architect.

Mr. FOSTER. Is Mr. Ewart a first-class clerk?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. He has been acting for years as assistant chief architect. I have promoted him, and he is now acting chief architect.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the assistant.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have none. I do not want any either, for the time being.

Mr. HAGGART. Have you appointed Mr. Ewart chief architect?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not appoint him chief architect. He is simply acting as such.

Mr. HAGGART. Is it your intention to recommend his appointment?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have not made up my mind what I will do.

Mr. McINERNEY. Is there any special reason for dismissing Mr. Belliveau?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. There is no special reason, but in looking through my department I found that I could dispense with the services of a certain number of employees, and I am very sorry that Mr. Belliveau was one of those. I would like very much to keep them, but I feel that I can go on without those whom I have dismissed, and I have made up my mind to practice economy as much as I can.

Mr. McINERNEY. I regret very much that the hon. gentleman found it necessary to dismiss Mr. Belliveau. I understand that there were only two French Acadians in the service at Ottawa, and one of these was Mr. Belliveau who has been dismissed. The French Acadians in the province of New Brunswick number over 60,000 souls. They are a people who ought to be looked

Mr. DAVIES.

on as having some rights in this country, and to have them represented by one man in the service here is not, I think, giving them a fair measure of justice. If the Minister of Public Works found it necessary to curtail the number of officers in his department, I think he might have done so without striking at one of the two men of a nationality, who I think, are entitled to some consideration in this country. Therefore, on that ground, if it were possible to do so, I would ask the hon. gentleman to reconsider the case of Mr. Belliveau and try to put him back in the service.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not see what the question of race has to do with such a question. I did not inquire whether Mr. Belliveau was a French Acadian or a French Canadian. I simply inquired whether this man was needed. I found I did not need him, and the question is whether because a man is of French origin or of English origin, we are bound to employ him when we do not want him. There is the whole question for me. I am very sorry indeed to have to dispense with the services of Mr. Belliveau; but I may add, as the hon. gentleman raises this question, that if Mr. Belliveau had been an abler man than he is, perhaps I would have kept him. I am quite prepared to show the letter which Mr. Belliveau has written to me, and in which there are as many mistakes as lines.

Mr. McINERNEY. I thought you had no special reason?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I had no special reason when he was dismissed; but he has written this letter to me since. It seems to me that in such a case I should not be accused of being an enemy of the French Acadian race. Still, if I can see my way to employ Mr. Belliveau in another place, I will do so gladly.

Mr. McINERNEY. Did the hon. gentleman take in his department a new third-class clerk in place of some he had dismissed?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not appoint one man.

Mr. McINERNEY. Did not Mr. DesBrisay go into the Public Works Department?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. He has been transferred from the department of the Privy Council to my department in place of Mr. Thériault.

Mr. HUGHES. Is Mr. John B. Charleson employed in the Public Works Department?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes. He is not employed in the class I am now asking money for.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would like to know in what class he is employed, because we have something to say about him when the vote comes up?