

Mr. LEGER: Possibly. We call him "travelling inspector."

Mr. McCURDY: The duties of construction foremen are well indicated by the name which is given to the office. As my hon. friend knows, it is not possible during the winter months to construct public works of the nature of those which are mostly constructed in his district, so that, apart from British Columbia where operations can be carried on during the whole year, it is not the plan of the department to employ construction foremen in future excepting as and when required. The net result of that will probably be that, for this summer, the construction foreman will be retained throughout the summer, and that possibly on towards the end of the year his services will not be further required, but as compensation for that work a somewhat higher salary will be given to the construction foreman while employed.

Mr. LEGER: Will he have to move to St. John?

Mr. McCURDY: It would not be at all necessary for him to move to St. John.

Mr. McKENZIE: Do I understand that all these offices in Nova Scotia are abolished except the one that is now carried on at Halifax?

Mr. McCURDY: The district engineering offices in Nova Scotia have been amalgamated into one office and that office will be at Halifax. The establishment of all the offices prior to reorganization was 25. Under the reorganization, it will be 16.

Mr. McKENZIE: I understood the minister to say a minute ago that there would be only one district now covering a whole province with a central office at Halifax. Is that the only office in Nova Scotia?

Mr. McCURDY: Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE: Who is chief engineer?

Mr. McCURDY: C. E. W. Dodwell.

Mr. McKENZIE: How old a man is he?

Mr. McCURDY: I can obtain that information from the departmental records and forward to my hon. friend a statement of the exact age, but I think, speaking from my knowledge, that he is a man of sixty-seven or sixty-eight years of age.

Mr. McKENZIE: (Why he should be singled out and made engineer of the whole province and a man like Mr. McKean,

who is a much younger and very capable engineer, should be named for execution, I do not quite understand. Mr. McKean is a capable engineer and a good architect, in every way competent to carry on any work that he was able to carry on previously. I presume he is a more competent man to-day than he was for a number of years before. It so happens that I know the names and political affiliations of the men that the minister mentioned. It so happens, by accident, of course, that McKean is the only Liberal in the bunch, the only man that was really appointed by a Liberal Government.

Mr. McCURDY: Is my hon. friend speaking about retirement?

Mr. McKENZIE: Yes. When from quite a number of men a Liberal is singled out for dismissal, it looks suspicious, to say the least. This man is just as capable as Mr. MacGillivray or Mr. McDonald, whom the minister has mentioned, but it so happens that Mr. MacGillivray and Mr. McDonald are Tories, appointed by a Tory Government. They are younger men, splendidly educated, good men in every way, and in a much better position to go out in the world and take another position than Mr. McKean. Mr. McKean has had twenty-one years in the public service—the minister says thirteen. Mr. McKean, in addition to his service with the Public Works Department, was in the Railway Department at Moncton as draftsman and engineer, so that his total public service is twenty-one years. The minister will find that I am not extending the time at all. Now when a man has given twenty-one years of his life to any one calling, he has become pretty well moulded to that kind of work and it is not so fit to be turned loose on the world as a younger man, like McDonald or MacGillivray, of whom the minister speaks. I think when a reorganization of this kind takes place, and only certain men are to be retained, the men who have given the longest service should be given the preference. But there is a very simple explanation. If Mr. Bernasconi had anything to do with selecting the man who should go, he would at once single out a Liberal; there is no question about that. My hon. friend seems to think it is a great pity that we are losing Mr. Bernasconi's services. I presume that he is a first-class man, but there is nothing compulsory about his retirement, for nearly two years ago Mr. Bernasconi told me that he wanted to retire. During the