

Q. Do you take special means for finding out?—We have the continual reporting of the Inspectors, who, if they find any deviation from these rules, will let us know.

Q. I would like to know what the Inspectors' duties are?—They have a general supervision over all the business of the port. He has first of all to see that the books are properly written up; then he has got to examine all the vouchers connected with these books and accounts, to see that every thing has been duly accounted for; to go back to the original reports and manifests; find out whether all the goods reported have been duly entered; and, generally, he is to find out whether there is anything contrary to law or the regulations existing in any port; if so, it is his duty to see that it is corrected at once, and report to the Department if necessary.

Q. Then he goes around to each port for this purpose?—He is supposed to go to every port.

Q. In his Division?—Yes.

Q. How frequently?—There is no specified number of times in the year; he may have to go to some one port half a dozen times in the year, and to another port a single visitation would be sufficient; it much depends how he finds the port on his first visitation; the second rule I referred to, No. 10 of the General Instructions.

“10. No Officer of Customs is allowed to hold any corporate office, nor to interfere in political questions, either local or general.”

That, you observe, might admit of a man holding the appointment of Secretary-Treasurer, or something of that kind, because in a certain sense it is not a “corporate” office; it is a mere appointment. But we don't often sanction that where we are aware of it.

Q. Do you consider the work of your Department, speaking of the outside service, specially hard on the health?—I may answer that question generally in this way: that I consider the service generally as not hard on the health. There are cases in which officers have got to be out on duty at night. In such cases they may be exposed to storms and other things which might be injurious to health.

Q. As a matter of fact, do you find that they wear out rapidly in that Department?—I think the contrary is the truth. I think it is a service in which a man can have as good health as in any service in the world.

Q. Is not good physical health necessary?—Very desirable, and indeed necessary.

Q. Something above the average. I don't merely mean that he should not be sick, but that he should be a strong, vigorous man?—Activity more than strength is what is required.

Q. Is a medical examination required for entrance?—No.

Q. Do you think it would be desirable to test the soundness of a man's constitution?—I think it would be desirable in all cases.

Q. What is the limit of age of appointments?—The limit by law is 18 years. No man enters the Civil Service, that I am aware of, who is not over 18 years old.

*By the Chairman:—*

We were told in the Post Office Department the limit was 25 years, and that in your Department it was 45 years.

*By the Witness:—*

I am not aware of any absolute limit in our Department. We consider it very desirable that no man should be appointed who is over 45. In fact we have used special endeavours to prevent a man being taken into the service who was over 45 years.

Q. Do you consider as a rule that 25 is a good average at which men should be appointed?—I would as soon take on a man at 35 as at 25 years.

Q. As far as vigour is concerned?—Yes.

Q. But don't you consider that the public would get more work out of a man who joined the service at twenty-five, during his life time, than out of one who joined it at thirty-five years?—Yes.

Q. Should a man as early a twenty do work in the service?—For the more important work I should think not.