

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask for information if the Prime Minister has it, concerning the change or proposed change in the deputy head. I see it stated in the newspapers that the deputy has resigned or intends to resign. He is a man in the prime of life, and, I have understood, a very efficient man. What are the reasons for giving up such a 'good sit'?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Smart has given up the service. There is no reason, so far as I now know, except that he thinks that he can better his circumstances by going into business himself. He has not been superannuated so far as I know.

Mr. FOSTER. Who has been appointed in his place?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Cory.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is Mr. Cory?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. He was inspector of offices in the Yukon Territory.

Mr. FOSTER. How long was he there?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. From July, 1901.

Mr. FOSTER. What are his special qualifications?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. He has done good service in the work with which he was intrusted. Mr. Smart, who, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) says was an efficient man, had not been connected with the service until he came here. Mr. Cory has had experience in a post that was very difficult to fill, where he gave satisfaction. We hope he will be as efficient as Mr. Smart has been.

Mr. FOSTER. The deputy head of a department, especially in such a department as the Interior, has a multiplicity of branches to supervise and a great variety of work to do. It struck me when I read of the appointment that the mere fact that a man had shown efficiency in the Yukon where there is no great variety, but only a special branch of work, might not, imply the general qualifications necessary to the permanent head of the department.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not agree with my hon. friend. I think that a man that has been in the service in the Yukon for five years and has given satisfaction must be a very good man. I understand that, before joining the service he was for eleven years in the office of the Attorney General for Manitoba.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose I need not ask if he belongs to the party of the leader of the House?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not know. But I should be sorry if he did not.

Mr. FOSTER.

Civil government—Department of the Interior—contingencies, \$27,185.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There is a decrease of \$20,000 there because there is no vote for salaries and expenses of the mines branch. I do not wish to gain undeserved credit. My hon. friend will find the item again, in No. 216, Dominion Lands.

Civil government—Department of Indian Affairs—salaries, \$66,382.50.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There is only one item there which I think requires explanation. We ask an appropriation for six chief clerks instead of five. The reason is that Mr. Bray has been promoted to a chief clerkship. Mr. Bray has been in the department as a first-class clerk since 1884, and he has simply got promotion.

Mr. FOSTER. The fact that a man has been promoted is scarcely a reason why you should establish an additional chief clerkship. When you establish an additional chief clerkship for a good reason, then of course a man is either promoted to it or another one appointed. What was the reason for adding to the chief clerkships?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The reason is that Mr. Bray, as I understand, is a very efficient officer who has been in the service since 1884; he had reached the top of his class, and I think it is only reasonable that he should be promoted one step higher as a reward for good service. My hon. friend will agree to that.

Mr. FOSTER. But that must always have a limitation, because on that principle you will be constantly increasing the number of chief clerks.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. But when you have a man like Mr. Bray who has been twenty years in the service and has reached the maximum of his class, and who cannot therefore get any further statutory increase, I think it is a good practice and a good principle, in order to encourage the civil servants, to reward them in some way, and that is the only way in which Mr. Bray can be rewarded.

Mr. BERGERON. How old is he now?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Fifty-nine.

Mr. BERGERON. Could you not increase his salary in an indirect way, by giving him a pension?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This is the only way it can be done. There is a statutory increase of \$50 a year given until a man has reached the maximum of his class. Mr. Bray was in the first class, and he could not go any higher. He might serve twenty years more without having an addition to his salary. He could not get the \$50 a year which everybody else gets until he reaches the maximum. So in order to give him an incentive, and encourage the