

Q. Do the clerks in the Post Office Department require any specific training?—Yes.

Q. Do postmasters in cities?—They ought to have had it, of course; but they have assistants who have had post office experience.

Q. Would you appoint post masters in cities as rewards in the Service?—If you do not there is nothing left in the Service. If you do not you make the limit which can be reached to be a salary of \$1,600 or \$1,800, that is the ordinary limit, even if you have superior ability.

By Mr. Kirkpatrick:—

Q. How far would you extend the system of competitive examinations? I ask you to see whether you would extend it from the inside Civil Service at Ottawa to the outside?—But of course city postmasters belong to the “outside,” as you call it.

By the Chairman:—

Q. Would the remarks you have made with reference to the inside service apply to the outside service?—Yes.

By Mr. Kirkpatrick:—

Q. You would apply your remarks to the whole of the outside service?—I should recommend competitive examinations for the first appointment, and that of course would apply equally to the outside as to the inside, except to country postmaster-ships.

Q. Then the system you would like in Ottawa you would like outside also: competitive examinations, the test for appointments, and then successive promotions?—Yes.

Q. It would extend to wherever there is a fixed salary?—Yes; wherever you purchase a man's whole time.

Q. But not to country postmasters who may be storekeepers, or anything else besides being postmaster?—No.

Q. Then there is no part of the Post Office Department, except that of the country postmasters, which you would not bring under this system?—No.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd April, 1877.

Committee met.—Mr. CASEY in the Chair.

Mr. J. JOHNSON called and examined:

By the Chairman:—

Q. You are the Deputy Head of the Customs' Department?—Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been in that position?—I have been in the Customs' Department since 1867; it is a little over two years since I was appointed Commissioner of Customs; previous to that I was Assistant Commissioner of Customs.

Q. Your first appointment was to the position of Assistant Commissioner?—Yes, my first appointment in the Customs; but my first appointment in the Civil Service dates twenty-one years back in New Brunswick.

Q. Would that position enable you to judge of the condition of the Service almost as well as the one you now hold?—Quite as much; I have had pretty much all the duties of the office to attend to since my appointment.

Q. How did that come about?—Mr. Bouchette, who was Commissioner, was getting infirm, and a great deal of his time he was unable to attend to his business, and all the business virtually passed through my hands ever since 1867, till I was appointed Commissioner myself.

Q. Can you give me a rough idea of the number of the employees in your department?—I have copies of the returns. In the inside service there are twenty-four, including the Commissioner down to the Messengers. In the outside service there are 918 actually appointed by Order-in-Council.

Q. All of whom are at present engaged?—Yes.