

and there is a statement to the contrary by the minister, and no one seems to be exactly sure about this matter. If the act required the age to be only thirty-two last year, it requires it to be the same age this year, because the act has not been changed since.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think even the minister will see he is wrong. There is nothing in the act at all of that kind; it is in his own advertisement. I will read it:

Qualifications: Graduation from a university of recognized standing on or before the date of examination; general familiarity with the resources and industries of the Dominion; preferably three years of business experience; prepossessing personality; ability to exercise independent judgment, tact. Candidates must have been residents of Canada for at least fifteen years prior to the date of examination, and preference will be given to those who are not more than thirty-five years of age.

That surely disposes of the contention that there is anything in the act compelling them to be over or under thirty-five years.

Mr. GRAHAM: The act says thirty-five years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That cannot be. This says preference only will be given.

Mr. GRAHAM: Then we have all been wrong for years past, because I have been telling every applicant that he could not get a position in the civil service if he was over thirty-five.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I fancy that does not apply to this class of position.

Mr. LOW: I must admit the leader of the opposition is usually right but on this occasion he happens to be mistaken. My deputy informs me that the age of thirty-five is the limit placed in the Civil Service Act.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does that apply to this class of position?

Mr. LOW: Certainly.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then this advertisement is foolishness. It says preference will be given to those who are under thirty-five, intimating clearly that those over thirty-five may be appointed.

Mr. LOW: The commission drew the advertisement.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They know the act all right.

Mr. LOGAN: If I may continue my remarks, Mr. Chairman, it occurred to me when I heard the leader of the opposition reading that advertisement that a man must be a university graduate and have had three years

experience in business, and have a knowledge of Canada, and so forth, he was going to receive a wonderful income for all those qualifications—\$1,500 a year. I believe the minister's desires are to get away from that restrictive qualification. The minister himself is a business man, and he knows there are many men in this country forty-five and fifty-five years of age who never saw the inside of a university who would make a much better trade commissioner than any callow youth with all the college medals on the earth pinned on him.

Mr. GRAHAM: Extend the age a little further.

Mr. LOGAN: It requires a man of personality, intelligence, with a knowledge of business, and a knowledge of Canada, not a knowledge of higher mathematics or of the classics.

However as I said before, this matter will be discussed on the supplementary estimates, when I hope it will not be so near midnight as it is now, and when it is discussed I would like to make a few remarks and urge that many changes be made.

I only say to the minister now that I believe if the government will introduce a bill to take the trade commissioners of this country out of the Civil Service Act entirely, the same as is done with the officers of the Taxation department, this House and this country will be behind them. I believe this is one part of the government service where the commission should not make the appointments, because it is more a matter of personality, tact, and business experience than a knowledge of academic subjects that is required. In the trip which I made around the Caribbean sea, I found two trade commissioners, and in looking up the records I find that the total amount paid for all our Commercial Intelligence service to the West Indies and all the land surrounding that sea comes to \$4,000 less than the amount paid for the same service at Milan, Italy. It is about the same as is paid in Calcutta. I think, therefore, we must come to the conclusion that we are not overpaying the men who are down in the West Indies. However, these matters can be discussed at greater length on another occasion. I only rise now to state to the minister that I believe if he increased the vote for Commercial Intelligence many-fold this country would be behind him. When you travel throughout all these countries to the south and find in every town, and almost every village, a representative of the great American nation that is out for