

3. If so, what is the position which he now occupies, what salary does he receive, and under what clause of the Civil Service Act was he appointed?

4. Has the said Castonguay passed the Civil Service examination, either preliminary or qualifying?

5. Is it to be regarded as a precedent that when a man has been dismissed for cause from one branch of the public service, that he shall be appointed to a position in another branch of the service?

Hon. RAYMOND PREFONTAINE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). There is no such person in the employ of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I asked first: Was one A. B. Castonguay dismissed from the Dominion Police force within the past six or nine months?

Hon. CHAS. FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice). A man named Castonguay was dismissed from the Dominion Police force for insubordination.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Has he since been appointed to a position in the Department of Marine and Fisheries?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. No.

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY LINE FENCE.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Speaker, with reference to the matter which was brought yesterday to the attention of the House by my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Clements) in which it appeared that different information had been given of a certain transaction which was said to have taken place in the Department of the Interior, as I was the Deputy Minister of the Interior, as I was the party who was made to give the information, to give me an explanation of what had occurred. I have received from him this letter, which I will now read to the House:

Ottawa, 10th May, 1905.

My Dear Sir Wilfrid,—Upon the 4th January last, acting under instructions from the then Minister of the Interior, I addressed a letter to the McGregor-Banwell Wire Fence Company, of Walkerville, Ontario, advising them that it had been decided to erect a fence at the boundary line in the Northwest Territories, one hundred miles of which was to be constructed this year and the balance next year, and asking that company to state the price for constructing a fence, known as a woven wire fence, to be 200 miles long, running east and west from Coutts on the boundary line south of Lethbridge; to be made of No. 9 wire, with iron posts either solid or of pipe driven at least three feet into the ground, properly guyed and otherwise supported and built in a thoroughly substantial way having gates every fifteen miles. The price was to include the stringing of a telephone wire along the fence but not the putting in of instruments. The department was to furnish a surveyor to run the line.

In reply I was advised by the company that their representative would be in Ottawa about the 18th of January and submit a tender for the fence. On the 19th of that month their tender—which is shortly to the following effect—was submitted to the department:

To supply and deliver No. 510 fencing (as per the attached) 9 horizontals of No. 9 hard steel galvanized wire with uprights of No. 9 hard steel galvanized wire 22 inches apart, 51 inches high.

To supply and deliver posts required to be 6 inches or over in diameter at the small end.

To supply and deliver staples brace wire, braces, anchor pieces for end posts and all other material required to set posts 20 feet apart, to erect fencing complete in a substantial and thoroughly workmanlike manner.

To supply deliver and hang 'all metal' gates as required at the following prices:

Fencing, per mile.	\$550 00
Gates, each	10 00

If this tender is accepted we agree to enter into a contract with the department covering the above work and the supply and delivery of above material.

The minister, Mr. Sifton, being then absent, I held this matter for submission to him on his return, but, as you will remember, almost immediately after such return he resigned. I therefore decided to hold the matter for the consideration of his successor.

In the meantime letters were received here from different parties asking for information with regard to this fence, and my answer in all cases was that this matter was under consideration.

The only other action I took was to obtain from the Deputy Minister of Justice a draft of the contract which he would consider necessary to be executed by the company in this matter, so that I might be able to submit it, with my letters, the company's tender, and the other letters referred to and my replies to them, to the new minister.

A letter, dated 20th March last, was received here on the 22nd of that month from the Page Wire Fence Company, stating that they had heard of the government's intention of building the fence in question, and would like to know to whom they should apply for further information with regard to it. The secretary, Mr. Keyes, having on the 25th March last signed the letter to the Department of Justice asking for the preparation of the draft contract before mentioned, incorrectly assumed that the matter had been settled and that the contract had been given to the McGregor-Banwell Fence Company, and replied on the 8th ultimo to the Page Wire Fence Company as follows:

Replying to your letter of the 20th ultimo, in reference to the erection of a wire fence at the southern boundary of the Northwest Territories, I beg to state that the government has awarded the contract in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. CORY.

The Right Hon.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., Premier,
Ottawa.

In addition to this, I received this morning another letter which I will read to the House, and the purport of which will be understood from the letter itself and from what transpired yesterday: