

Chapter IV

STAFF AND ORGANISATION

THE President of the Board is solely responsible for the whole of the Department's administration, and takes the credit or discredit for everything done by it. His responsibility is not diluted by the fact that other Ministers are associated with him on the Board, though on one occasion the Chancellor of the Exchequer reminded the President that he, too, was a member of the Board. He has always been a member of the Cabinet, and since 1905 has sat in the House of Commons. There have been twelve Presidents since 1900, among whom Mr. Fisher held office for the longest period, viz. five years and ten months. The President's salary is fixed by statute at £2,000 a year.

The President is assisted by a Parliamentary Secretary. He is "one of the Secretaries of the Board," who by statute is permitted to sit and vote in the House of Commons. He represents the Minister in Parliament in his absence, and if he does not sit in the same House as the Minister, as happened from 1902-1905, his position is more important and onerous. When they both sit in one House, he frequently replies on points raised in debate when the Minister has spoken at an earlier stage. He can be very useful to the Department by keeping it in touch with private