

periences. But to me it was an odd sight, the winding up of a mascalongo's existence by the aid of a dose of number six shot. He received that, however, and his mortal remains were taken to a little store and weighed. He turned the scale at twenty-nine pounds. This was one of the last incidents my old shooting coat saw.

Superannuation.

On Wednesday April 25th 1883, Sir Leonard Tilley introduced into the house a series of resolutions on Civil Service Superannuation (Commons debates p. 791). Sir Leonard, in moving the resolution pointed out that "in the original Act providing for superannuation, all employees of the government, either inside or outside, were included. This the Act of 1882, undid by coupling the outside superannuation to the Customs, Excise, and Inland Revenue departments. The resolutions introduced were for the purpose of retiring the prominent officials of Railways "some of the other departments" and the Receiver General's department within the action of the superannuation clauses of the bill of 1882.

Mr. Blake reminded Sir Leonard that this opened the whole question of superannuation. He said the government forgot that the principle of life insurance was applicable to these cases, and the reduction to be made by the government in these allowances was a mistaken reduction. He thought the government ought to have had sufficient experience to know who ought and ought not to be superannuated. He proceeds. For my own part I am dissatisfied with the working of the superannuation Act. I believe that the results of its working have not been advantageous, and while I am prepared to sustain some means whereby the services of an official who is no longer competent to discharge his duties, may be dispensed with, I believe the present system is one which it is not in the interest of the country to retain on any ground. The honourable gentleman will see that the charge is very large. If I remember rightly, something like \$120,000 a year is now the difference between the receipts, and expenditures. I know that the report of the Civil Service Commission produces certain figures to show that there is a great saving: but that operation is performed by a sort of legerdemain which I do not think will commend it to the taxpayer". Again he points out that "a very large proportion of the public servants who have been placed under the operation of the Superannuation Act have died in the service, and all those persons of course paid without benefit." He concluded by hoping for more information later on.

On May 16th in the same year, Sir Leonard Tilley moved the second reading of the bill embodying these resolutions, when Mr. Blake said in the course of a lengthy speech "I am not objecting to the second reading of the bill because it is a consolidation bill; and I presume that nobody, however much opposed to this system in the beginning, and, however much convinced as I am that it requires modification in the future, would propose that Civil Servants who had entered office or retained office for ten or eleven years under its operation, and who had changed their condition in life with this inducement existing, should be deprived of what may be called fairly by that much abused name sometimes, a vested right. I do not think that it would be fair or reasonable to persons in that position, even if the policy of the country should change upon the subject, to say to them: "Gentlemen, you have been ten or twelve years in the service, you have paid your subscriptions to the fund, and you entered and continued in the service under the idea of having the benefits of this provision, but we have changed that policy now and

will cut you off and return you your money. I think that any change that takes place in the policy of the country with reference to the persons who have been for any reasonable, any appreciable time in the service, must be a change, optional as far as they are concerned, and not be compulsory to them to their disadvantage. At the close of the same speech Mr. Blake suggested that the true way to deal with the matter in future would be to impose a compulsory saving, graduated according to their emolument, which shall go to the credit of these gentlemen, (that is those entering the service) with interest accumulating, and which shall take the shape of a fund, so that when the time arrives when a particular individual leaves the service, whether by voluntary retirement, or from infirmity, or because he has left the world, this fund shall be available for himself, or his family.

The attractions at the Grand Opera House for the next fortnight will be:—

- Mar. 16. Grossmith.
- " 18. Wiman.
- " 20. Dan McCarthy, in the Rambler from Claire.
- " 27 28. Napoleon's Concert, Operatic Company.
- " 31. Jane Comedy Company.

Lieut.-Col. C. E. Panet.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Eugene Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, was born in Quebec, 17th November, 1830. He came from an old and honourable French Canadian stock, his great grandfather having settled in Canada over a century before. Jean Antoine Panet, the colonel's grandfather, was the first speaker of the Legislature of Lower Canada, which position he held for twenty-three years. Col. Panet's father, Philip Panet, was a judge of the court of Queen's Bench for Lower Canada, whilst his mother was a daughter of M. Casgrain Seigneur of La Bouteillerie, and also a representative of a very old family. Charles Eugene was educated in the Quebec Seminary, and at the Jesuit College, Georgetown D.C. On leaving college he studied law in the office of Hon. J. P. Taschereau in Quebec, and was called to the bar in 1854. He practiced for three years and then abandoned the profession. For fourteen years he was sole coroner for the city and district of Quebec, one of the largest areas in lower Canada. He assisted in organizing and was for many years in command of the 9th Battalion, retiring on 23rd April, 1880. During the Fenian raid of 1868 he was in command of the Military district. In recognition of his services he was called to the senate as representative of the district of La Salle, 2nd March 1874, but retired in February 1875 on his appointment as deputy minister of Militia and Defence, which position he has since ably and continuously filled. He married in 1858 a daughter of Felix Lussier of Varennes, who died in 1859, leaving two children. In 1862 he married a daughter of R. W. Harwood of Vaudreuil, who died leaving eight children in 1878. He married again in 1880 a daughter of Mr. Joseph Lefevre de Bellefeuille, Seigneur de St. Eustache, by whom he has two children. Col. Panet is the second senior deputy minister.

It is rumored that the prorogation of Parliament will take place about March 29th. Others who also claim to be well posted say it will be nearer the middle of April.

A Civil Servant's Views.

On the 3rd February last a very virulent attack was made on the Civil Service by certain members of the House of Commons, in connection with the furnishing of Country Newspapers to the various Departments. For details of the remarks then made we beg to refer our readers to the Hansard of that date, p. 279. Amongst these charges was one that the principal use made of the newspapers in question was by the clerks of the departments, who, it was suggested, spent most of their time during their hours of duty in reading them. Interspersed with these accusations were insinuations that the clerks were a worthless, idle, set, etc. etc.

Of course every one acquainted with the facts is aware that the charge that the clerks of the Department spend the whole, or any appreciable part of their time at the office in reading newspapers of any kind, much more the sheets in question, is utterly devoid of truth, and a gross calumny. We venture to say there is hardly a Department where these papers are not received direct by the private secretary of the Minister, or where they are even seen or handled by the clerks except when they are required to extract information from them in the ordinary discharge of their duties, which, if ever needed, is only in one or two of the Departments. They are not the kind of literature the Civil Service particularly delights in. Some gentlemen of the House of Commons may imagine they are, but we think they are mistaken.

In some Departments the papers may be put in the waiting rooms for the delectation of parties waiting to see the minister, who are possibly better able to digest the mental pabulum they contain; but in our visits to the Departments, which have not been few, and have extended over a long term of years, we have never noticed a clerk in one of these waiting rooms (the doors of which are always open) when we have been passing them. What ever newspapers the clerks of the Civil Service require they no doubt purchase with their own honorably-earned pay.

If an inquiry were made we are convinced hon. members would discover our statements to be correct.

As to the charges which were interposed with their baseless accusations, respecting the alleged loafing habits of the clerks we may safely deny their truth in toto. The Civil Service clerks do a vast amount of arduous and important work, as is proved by the Blue-books as much as, if not more than, any other class of the community in proportion to their number and pay, and that any honourable person should join in this charge against them, in a place where they cannot be heard in self-defence, is something only to be explained by Parliamentary exigencies.

If members really believe what they say—that the Civil Service clerks are a pack of loafers and incompetents—they should at once move for another searching inquiry by commissioners. For ourselves we think a perusal of the Civil Service Commissioners' report now before the House, which is evidently honest, gives the lie to all these accusations, proving conclusively as it does that such a wholesale complaint is entirely without justification on any but so-called political grounds, which it will be admitted are not synonymous with truthful and fair-dealing grounds.

There may be, and no doubt are, a few black sheep here and there, due entirely to politics; but woolly animals of that colour may be found, without much searching, amongst other bodies which might be named, who think, or rather try to think, themselves far higher, and more immaculate creatures than poor Civil Servants. Their consciences if they ever get them back, and the verdict of posterity, will perhaps tell a different tale. We would not be far wrong in claiming that the Civil Service, as a body, will compare favorably with any class of men in Canada both