

day). There is no hope, and without that they soon sink into a listless way of doing even the small amount of work they are expected to do. It is a part of human nature to look for better things. Each year people want increase. It is proper that it should be so. The feeling was implanted in our nature by the Almighty, always to look forward to expect something more, and is the feeling in a higher degree that leads them to look forward to a better and higher life beyond the grave. This feeling is what has made the world what it is, instead of its remaining in barbarism. And why should a civil servant never look forward to an increase of his salary, and consequently to more comfort?

I subjoin a table of prices to show that if his salary had been doubled in twenty years service he would be still a poor man, even if his family had remained the same, which it rarely ever does.

EXPENDITURE.	1850.	1870.	1882.
Rent per annum.....	\$100 00	120 00	100 00
Taxes.....	6 00	10 00	25 00
Water rates.....	0 00	00 00	50 00
Servants (2 females).....	24 00	100 00	150 00
Fuel (15 cords wood).....	30 00	45 00	75 00
Cutting wood.....	7 50	11 50	15 00
Baker's bill.....	20 00	28 95	42 00
Butchers.....	54 50	65 50	80 50
Grocers.....	100 00	114 00	203 12
Milk.....	18 00	24 00	45 12
	\$437 50	\$520 14	\$892 46

MARKET PRICES.			
Apples (per barrel).....	\$ 1 00	2 00	4 00
Flour do.....	3 00	4 50	7 00
Fresh eggs (per doz).....	8	10	35
Butter (per lb).....	10	12	25
Hacon (per lb).....	8	12	16
Pork do.....	7	8	12
Mutton do.....	7	8	12
Beef do.....	7	8	12
Beef (per 10 lbs).....	3 00	4 00	6 50
Pork do.....	2 50	3 00	5 00
Mutton (per sheep).....	2 00	3 00	4 50
Potatoes (per bag).....	25	30	1 20
Turnips.....	10	15	30
Cabbages (per doz).....	10	20	1 00
	\$ 15 43	\$ 19 76	\$ 31 04

PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY THE DAY.			
Carpenter.....	\$ 10 75	1 00	2 00
Mason.....	75	1 00	2 00
Plumber.....	75	1 00	2 00
Tinsmith.....	75	1 00	2 00
Laborer.....	50	75	1 00
Charwoman.....	25	40	75
Dressmaker.....	25	40	75
	\$ 4 00	\$ 5 55	\$ 10 50

I give the actual expenses of the year from July, 1850, to 1882, as they stand on the old account book. It will be seen that instead of its being an easy year it was an unusually hard one, there having been both a birth and a death; the extra expenses connected therewith amounting to over £30. There was £15 paid for furniture, £10 for insurance and £20 for board for one month's rest. In spite of all there was a balance left of £29 out of the £400 per annum. With £250 at the present day not half the comforts could be enjoyed, and such a "living year" would throw one deeply in debt.

MONTHS PAID DURING THE YEAR 1850			
Rent of house.....	£ 27 10		
Furniture.....	15 00		
Taxes.....	2 10		
Schooling.....	17 00		
Insurance on life.....	26 15		
Tailor.....	14 10		
Shoemaker.....	5 10		
Dry Goods.....	25 5 3		
Butcher.....	17 5 4		
Baker.....	7 2 7		
Grocer.....	23 12 7		
Fuel.....	10 17 10		
Milk.....	6 1 1		
Wages.....	22 7 4		
Medical attendance.....	16 5		
Chemist.....	7 6 9		
Funeral expenses.....	4 2 6		
Extra wages & nurse.....	2 10 0		
Spent for every day expenses.....	13 00 0		
Board for one month.....	20 00 0		
	£279 1 6		

The above list has been compiled from actual bills of those dates. The two first were, of course, in pounds, shillings and pence, but for comparison have been put into dollars and cents. Clothing is not included. We must also bear in mind that poor people buy at the dearest rate. A rich man may buy his stores in large quantity at wholesale prices. A poor man, paid by the month, must buy retail and in very small quantities.

Being obliged to live in Ottawa, or its immediate vicinity, is a drawback. An income which would be ample in a small country town, would not be nearly enough for Ottawa.

Again, expenses vary so. The prices of every thing being one year double what it was before, that it is very difficult to calculate exactly. I have given above the average prices of food, but between 1870 and 1880 meat has been as high as 20 cents a lb., and everything else in proportion. In 1875 I find by old bills that cabbages were 20 cents, a fine cauliflower 50 cents, apples 65 cents a peck, turnips 20 cents, carrots 20 cents, onions 30 cents, parsnips 25 cents, prairie hens \$1 a pair. This year servants' wages were very high, because, as an Irish woman said, "The cost of food was so much her wages had to be raised."

If Ottawa was such an expensive place to live in that the members of Parliament were obliged to raise their allowance to \$1,000 for a session of a few weeks' duration, when most of them have good salaries from their own business at home, how could they expect poor people to live here all the year round on very little more than a few weeks' costs them.

The bonus once given was a blessing while it lasted, but the unexpected loss of it threw many people so deeply in debt that they have not yet recovered last ground.

If food or wages are high, a merchant immediately raises the prices of his goods to make his profits cover his expenses; not so the civil servant, he must pay the advanced price for everything.

Once in debt, the civil servant is completely at the mercy of his creditors, and is often induced to buy what he actually does not want, or to give the highest price for the poorest articles.

In the list of the cost of living it will be seen that it is only actual necessities, nothing allowed for luxuries, wines, or confectionary, &c. &c., nor the thousand and one petty expenses that have to be incurred.

If the members at the present session would take all these things into consideration, and vote something towards the higher compensation of those who have spent the best years of their lives in the service of their country, they will confer a great blessing upon a number of care-worn people, and earn the grateful thanks of every woman belonging to the Civil service. Ottawa, February, 1882.

DOINGS AT THE CAPITAL.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Ottawa, February 24th, 1882.

If princely be synonymous with magnificent, then that epithet is applicable to the entertainment given by Madame Caron, wife of the Minister of Militia and Defence, on Saturday last.

The whole of the house had been thrown open to the invited guests, who were numerous, the Commons, the Senate, the Bench, the Bar, the Civil Service and the military being represented, each by its most distinguished elements. Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Russell Stephenson, Mrs. De Winton and the Viceregal staff dropped in during the course of the evening. The upper storey had been transformed into a huge mirquee, ornamented with panoplies composed of pistols, swords, bayonets and helmets, and hung with portraits of Her Majesty, of the Viceregal pair, of Sir John and of the late Minister of Militia, Sir George E. Cartier. In the corners stood stacked arms, and flags which had braved the battles of 1812 were dependent by the side of others which, so far, have only faced the breeze. Orderlies taken from the Governor-General's Foot Guards were stationed at the entrance, the foot of the staircase and on every landing. One could have imagined oneself in camp. The musical and vocal programme was excellently rendered. I have already given the names of the performers, and therefore content myself with mentioning that Prume played *La Melancolie*, a composition of his namesake's, and a sonata by Greg, arranged as a duo, Mrs. J. W. F. Harrison taking the piano part. Among other numbers, Mile Ledue sang *La robe Topaze*, Mme. Christin, *Tristes amours*, and Mrs. T. Charles Watson recited *Ave Italianus*. The assembly broke up shortly before midnight, after having spent a most enjoyable evening.

At that party I was almost converted to the sunflower; but then it was worn by a Montreal lady, who is a privileged being, and who appears to advantage in anything she wears. Whilst on the subject of beauty, two sisters, daughters of a military man from Halifax, have attracted a good deal of admiration at various social entertainments this season. They are *petites* and *bouquettes*, and would look well in a picture of the Watteau school.

The bazaar held annually in connection with the Church of St. Alban the Martyr will open on March 1st, and continue to remain so until the end of the week. The ladies of the guild are all busy with needle and paint-brush, so that an aesthetic display may be expected. The bazaar is under the patronage of Lady Macdonald, whilst Mesdames Grant, Powell, Borradaile and Patterson constitute a committee of management.

A passing word about my colleagues of the fourth estate. Mr. Carroll Ryan, who has sat in the gallery since Confederation, was unanimously elected President of the gallery, on Saturday. He humorously referred to the fact that during the past few years many of us had "gone below." For the benefit of ignorant outsiders I explain that this remark applies to those of us who sit in either House. Mr. Trow has sent us his annual present, a box of cigars: such gifts are never *de trop*.

Our special thanks are due to Sir Hector Langevin, who has personally taken much trouble in ensuring our comfort, besides presenting us with a set of most useful maps.

"The Sorcerer" is to be produced at the Grand Opera House, under the patronage of His Excellency, and for the benefit of the Protestant Hospital, on the 23th inst., by a company of amateurs, whose names follow: Misses Anmond, Poetter, Waller and Haycock; Messrs. Bates, Sinclair, M. Dunleire, Peachy and Chesley, with a chorus of amateurs; the orchestra is to be taken from the Guards' Band, under the conductorship of Professor Doré.

Lady Macdonald's kettledrum on Monday was well attended.

Lady Tilley's ball on Tuesday was, I am told, a most successful affair. Lady Frances Balfour, who, together with the ladies composing the Rideau Hall party, had lunched with the Speaker of the Senate in the middle of the day, graced the ball with her presence, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. DeWinton and Capt. Short, A.D.C.

All day and all night, Ottawa had an insight into what a North-Western blizzard is, and on Wednesday the snowfall continued minus the wind.

Talking of balls, it has become the fashion in Ottawa to "fish" for invitations. Cabinet Ministers and M.P.'s are beset with letters asking them to procure invitations for balls at Rideau Hall and at Ministerial mansions. One Minister recently received some fifty letters from people, many of whom he did not know, requesting him to get the writers admitted to a colleague's house.

Madame Caron will give weekly *conversations* every Saturday during the session.

That dapper and energetic little officer, Commander Cheyne, is in town, and the guest of Captain Allen. He lectures in Peterborough on the 23rd inst., the title of his lecture being "Bullied, Not Bitten," or "The Discovery of the North Pole Practicable." On the 27th inst. he lectures here, the subject being "The Great Search for Sir John Franklin." A petition is now being extensively signed in Montreal, Toronto and Cobourg to the Dominion Parliament for a grant in aid of the projected enterprise, but it would almost appear that another year may elapse ere it be carried into execution, the possibility being that in the meantime Commander Cheyne may be sent to Hudson's Bay to examine the state of the ice during the summer months, in view of the proposed making of a route to Europe.

Prume's concert came off on Thursday. It was crowded, and Canada's violinist was at his best. A contemporary claims that musical history will "record his name with those of Vieux-Nero and the Royal composer of the Galatea Waltzes." If comparisons are odious, such a juxtaposition of names is meaningless. Mrs. T. C. Watson read in French, and many of our French-Canadian citizens tell me she read *délicieusement et adorablement*.

The same evening there was a masquerade at the Royal Riuk, the proprietor of which had without warrant announced that there was to be a reception committee of notabilities, but it turned out to be nothing but a private speculation, in no ways countenanced by the gentlemen named. As a matter of course, His Excellency did not honor the place with his presence.

In the afternoon, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Russell Stephenson and Miss Macpherson occupied seats on the floor of the House. Sir Hector Langevin presented the Civil Service Bill, which provides for competitive examination, that bug-bear of office seekers and their friends. A vote was taken on the second reading of Mr. Girouard's bill; it was carried by a large majority, 103. Mr. Coursol had, in the earlier part of the sitting, presented a petition in favor of the bill, signed by 300 ladies of Montreal. Query: Are these ladies wives with unmarried sisters, or sisters awaiting the demise of the former?

I must conclude with a few brevities, or you will "burke" my letter, Mr. Editor. St. Joseph's Bazaar, in aid of the Orphan Asylum, is now open. The Rev. O. Routhier, V.G., is director of the bazaar, whilst Madame Boucher is president of the ladies, and Mr. Campeau president of the gentlemen entrusted with its management.

His Excellency has placed in the hands of the Ottawa Lawn Tennis Club six prizes to be competed for in a ladies' single-handed tournament which will take place early in March, and will

be held in the Drill Hall, Ottawa. Play will begin on Monday, March the sixth, and the tournament will be brought to a conclusion on the following Saturday. Ladies of Ottawa who intend to take part in the tournament have been requested to send in their names to Mr. Waldo, the honorary secretary of the Ottawa club. The presidents of the various other Racquet and Tennis clubs in the Dominion have been notified of the intended tournament, and asked to forward the names of all ladies in their localities who wish to compete.

A marble bust of Sir John is on view in the Parliamentary Library: it is by Mr. Dunbar, and is life-like, although he has not yet had a life-sitting for it.

The discoverer of "Antediluvian music, or singing stones," is in town. He hails from France, and claims to have discovered that the silex has music within its flinty breast. His instrument is composed of two octaves of stones, weighing from one to eight pounds, and music is extracted therefrom by gently tapping them with a small silex. Crowds are flocking to this novelty.

Mrs. T. Chas. Watson is to read shortly, and Madame Rivé-King is to give a concert. As far as theatrical performances go, they are conspicuous by their absence. Our caterer in this respect is anything but enterprising, and his know-nothingness in matters theatrical is notorious.

Sir Leonard Tilley's Budget speech, which he made on Friday afternoon and night, is considered to be the best Budget speech he ever made. The galleries were crowded, Lady Macdonald and Lady Tilley being, of course, present. At the opening sitting, both ladies kissed their hands to the valiant Knight's below, who returned the compliment *en passant* to the fair dames who had come to witness the tournament.

Sir Richard Cartwright's reply was a poor specimen of oratory. He delivered himself of it in short, jerky sentences, in that painful falsetto voice of his, and wound up with a piece of clap-trap anted the "tyranny" of the Conservative party.

A new and original comic opera, entitled "The Boss of Bagdad," written by W. H. Fuller, author of "H.M.S. Parliament," the music composed by Oliver King, late pianist to H.R.H. the Princess Louise, has been accepted by the manager of Booth's Theatre, New York, and will be produced at that establishment on a scale of great magnificence, about the latter end of March. The opera has been partially rehearsed in New York, and has been much appreciated by musical critics. The scene of the opera is laid in Persia; the theme deals with modern social and political witnesses, who are treated in a spirit of good-natured satire, which our American cousins will be keen to appreciate.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

WINNIPEG is to have a half million hotel. MADAME CELESTE, a *quondam* French actress, is dead.

THE Lord Mayor's Jewish relief fund in London amounts to £50,000.

ANGLO-FRENCH commercial negotiations are at an end for the present.

THE criminal record of Havana averages one case to every twenty inhabitants.

SPANISH prelates are endeavoring to revive the abandoned pilgrimage scheme.

THE military exchanged shots with an armed mob at Carriek-on-Suir.

THE celebrated Jardin de Mabilie in Paris is to be taken for building purposes.

THE Metropolitan at Moscow has written to the Cz. ar, urging him to abandon his seclusion.

THE Court of Appeals has reversed the Queen's Bench judgment granting Bradlaugh a new trial.

A NEW Credit Mobilier is being formed in Paris with a capital of one hundred million francs.

DISGRACEFUL revelations of treatment at Sing-Sing prison are made public by an ex-keeper.

A LARGE quantity of gunpowder has been found concealed on board the *Niagara* of the New York and Cuba Mail S.S. Co.

GENERAL SKOBELLEFF again declares a great war is inevitable if Austria continues to oppress Bosnian slaves.

THE proposal of the Swiss Government to fix the standard of the metallic coinage has been refused by the European powers.

A MILD and not very successful effort has been made to close the Chicago gambling houses and put a stop to Sunday theatrical performances.