

mendation from us. His writings and his public utterances have long since built up for him such a distinguished reputation that nothing which we can say could either enhance or detract much from it. We shall confine ourselves, therefore, to saying generally that the present article is worthy of the author, and that the service will show its appreciation most fitly by endeavoring to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what hath been written. From THE CIVILIAN'S point of view, it is a rather notable feature that a man of Mr. Ewart's standing has recognized the influence of the paper by choosing it as the medium of his article. If THE CIVILIAN had been a mere pot-boiler,—if it had made itself the organ of selfish desire only,—if, in a word, it had not fixed its gaze in at least some slight degree upon things that are true, honest, just and of good report: we may rest assured that men of talent and public spirit would avoid its pages.

We may take this opportunity of saying that THE CIVILIAN has been fortunate from the start in having had so able a contributor as *Mercutio*. His offerings are being received with the increasing appreciation which their literary value and strong common sense merit. Heretofore he has pursued the Horatian policy of telling the truth with a laugh; but in the present issue he gives us a metrical story which excites quite other feelings. It will no doubt raise a laugh in some quarters when we say that this business of doing what is right between man and man is about the weightiest responsibility that confronts us in life's warfare. It is a responsibility that is often undertaken with extreme light-heartedness. We are so busy with the pseudo-virtues, so intent on paying tithe of mint and anise and cummin, to the omission of weightier matters of the law (judgment, mercy and faith) that we are incapable of seeing that the only virtue a real man need concern himself with is *justice*.

#### IMMEDIATE EFFECT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SECTION 6.

In so far as THE CIVILIAN has been able to learn, the situation with reference to the reorganization remains unchanged. Rumor has it that in view of the failure of the deputy ministers and the treasury board to arrive at an understanding as to a uniform method of dealing with the matter, it has been held up pending the return of the Hon. Mr. Fisher, under whose supervision and direction the bill was prepared. We have been unable to verify the truth of the report and give it simply as it came to us.

It is deeply to be regretted that pending a decision with reference to the details of the reorganization, the automatic transfer provided by section 6 of the Act has not been proceeded with. That, and the additional thousand dollars to the deputies, appear to have been the two things which were clear to a degree beyond dispute. To have given effect to it would have been to have cleared the atmosphere of all sorts of perplexing problems, and to have paved the way for an easier solution of the reorganization difficulty.

As the matter now stands, many who were entitled to increases from the 1st of September have not received them, and any number of peculiar situations have developed. Take, for example, the position of the temporary clerks who, in accordance with Section 7, should have been placed on the permanent list upon the coming into force of the Act. Over three and a half months have elapsed since the Act came into force. What then is to be the position of those clerks who have not been transferred, in view of the fact that Section 23 provides that no temporary clerk shall be employed for more than four months in any year?

There is probably no reason for any great alarm with reference to this, but it is one of the problems which would never have arisen if—instead of allowing matters to take their own course