

system is applied, Prof. Shortt finds that ministers and members of parliament as a whole seem to find the loss of this patronage a welcome relief. They formerly lost as much by offending persons whom they could not appoint as they gained by pleasing the friends of the successful applicant. Moreover, they get in the departments a better educated class of men, who come into the service to begin a life-work and not to receive the reward of past political activity. With the new official the appointment is the opening, not the close, of a career. Other things being equal, a young man who has qualified by study is a better officer than one who has qualified by pull, and other things being equal, any minister would rather have effective men than useless men about him.

While the commissioner has found much cause for satisfaction, he would probably feel gratified if greater interest were felt by young and promising men in the political service as a career. After two years' operation of the system the number of competitors for positions is less than the number of vacancies. This means that there is no competition among those who can pass the examination. All who passed the standard are winners. This does not refer to the lowest division, which offers only small rewards, but to the second division, which starts a young man at eight hundred dollars a year, with annual increases and regular promotions before him. The initial salary is not large, but under the old system, when the positions were party spoils, and salaries were lower, the departments were crowded with applicants.

It is true that the present standards call for educational qualifications such as are not usually found except among college men. Young men of that class may have, or think they have, better openings than those who in other days sought to get appointments by influence. Cer-

tainly it does not yet appear that the civil service presents itself to the university graduate as offering opportunities equal to those of other professions and occupations open to an educated man.

Still it ought to be understood that there are a considerable number of technical and administrative positions in the public service which should have attraction for a certain class of students. A score or more of geologists are engaged in the geological survey and other branches of the mining department, which has also chemists, botanists, ornithologists, mineralogists, metallurgists and other specialists. All kinds of engineers are engaged in the departments of railways, public works, marine and militia. Financial experts, including actuaries, are required in the department of finance. The department of agriculture has skilled officers of twenty kinds. In another department surveyors, foresters, and astronomers are found. Legal and medical knowledge has a large market at Ottawa. The navy calls for another kind of skilled people. In short, the government of Canada is almost the largest employer in Canada of expert and professional talent, and it engages by far the largest variety of professional men.

Why then should not the student look to the service of his country in this field as a career worthy of his attention? So long as positions in the public service were the gift of politicians and the reward of party service, it was not surprising that college men did not feel drawn that way and preferred to live in better company. But the change that is taking place, and that must be carried to a conclusion, will eventually raise the dignity of the service as a profession, and gather at Ottawa a group of department officials among whom it will be a pleasure and privilege for an educated and refined man or woman to live.