

appointment of a private secretary to a permanent position would not have wounded the feelings of any official or clerk in a government department fifty years ago, but today a private secretary who has not done a month's work at a desk in any branch of a department may be appointed or promoted over the heads of all officials and senior clerks in the department, many of whom may have been thirty or forty years employed in the department, and more than one having a thorough knowledge of the work and duties performed in all branches of the department. It does seem unfair.

I have given the subject consideration during the past fifteen years, and it is my humble opinion that the problem can be solved satisfactorily to all concerned.

I think a cabinet minister should have two private secretaries:

No. 1 should be known as Parliamentary Private Secretary. His work and duties would be much the same as they are today in attendance on and assisting the cabinet minister in his political and parliamentary work. This private secretary would also be paid his salary, allowances and travelling expenses as now paid.

No. 2 would be known as Departmental Private Secretary. He could be selected from several permanent clerks of the department, possessing a general knowledge of the work and duties performed in all branches of the department, ability and qualifications as a confidential clerk for the position. He would attend to all official correspondence and business matters which are not of a political nature. From his knowledge and experience, as a permanent clerk, he would give the minister valuable assistance. This secretary would receive an addition to his salary while he acts in the capacity of a Private Secretary to the Minister. When the latter exchanged portfolios, or retired from office as a Cabinet Min-

ister, the Private Secretary would revert to his ordinary work and duties in the Department with his regular salary.

Generally speaking all Cabinet Ministers are professional or business men, and connected or associated with men in the same profession or business, consequently it should not be difficult to obtain a good position or employment for their private secretaries outside of the Civil Service.

AN OLD TIMER.

### THE FORTNIGHT IN SPORT.

Hockey will not die. After the regular season is over the game is kept up on the new artificial ice rinks. An Eastern team of "stars" is now out on the Pacific Coast doing battle for glory—and a guarantee of \$6,000. Next winter both Toronto and Ottawa will have artificial ice arenas. One advantage of this will be that during a temporary thaw the game will not be rendered a burlesque—as sometimes happens—by a couple of inches of water on the ice.

The Ottawa Electric Company have evidently found that the Toronto Street Railway have a good thing in owning a hockey team. It is a pity they could not emulate the example of Toronto still further and back up the decadent Capital lacrosse team.

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All the Canadian league baseball teams are strengthening up for the fray. Even little Peterborough has its scouts at work in the States securing good talent. If Peterborough, Berlin, Guelph and Brantford can stand professional ball, surely the Capital with its 90,000 people (and 20,000 more in Hull) can do so. In a few years we shall see some stars in the big American league who will be remembered as native born Canadian product. At present there are very few. Lajoie—the ex-hackdriver