

is often the precursor of indolence. There need be no fear of this in a community of government servants. The material rewards of public service are in all democratic countries maintained at a degree of modesty that precludes the possibility of mental decay on account of affluential accumulations. The progress and development of the human race have been most marked according as man more and more has been relieved of the harassing struggle for mere existence, and is enabled to devote an untrammelled mind to the duties of his vocation, or the pleasure of intellectual pursuits in his hours of leisure. The nearer the civil service of Canada approaches this happy condition of mind and body, the more efficacious and efficient will become the nature of its public service.

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#### THE QUARTERLY REPORTS.

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Very little has been heard of the quarterly report which is supposed to be made upon the conduct of every civil servant in the service at Ottawa. No news is supposed in this case to be good news as every adverse report upon the conduct of an officer must, by law, be submitted for the inspection of the official concerned. It may be that the old system of viva voce report is still practised or it may be that the only report upon conduct, whether censorious or praiseworthy, is the written one demanded by law. In any case the responsibility placed in the hands of Deputy Ministers and chiefs of branches is of the weightiest and most serious nature. A man thus invested with authority should sit down and calmly consider what it means to sit in judgment upon his fellowman. He might read up the latest treatise on the "fallibility of human evidence." He might well submit his soul to a minute examination as to whether he is free from the many baneful varieties of that

universal human weakness called bias, such as the personal, the social or the religious. There is no intention to impute malice on the part of any official charged with the important function of reporting upon the efficiency and conduct of a clerk. The difficulties are largely ethical and judicial. Justice to all is an almost unattainable moral attribute in this imperfect mundane sphere, and if anything here set down, written as it is in the most kindly spirit, causes a single officer to make his reports more thoughtfully, with a higher sense of the responsibilities involved, our suggestions will not be in vain.

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#### ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

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With our first June number we intimated that we had started on a campaign having as its object the doubling of our circulation within twelve months. We asked the co-operation and support of the members of the civil service throughout Canada.

We may say that of late we have received very encouraging evidences in the way of new subscriptions. In the same mail, recently, we were favoured with 32 new names from Vancouver, while St. John, N.B., responded to our call with 28, thus showing that the interest extends from ocean to ocean. Then we obtained 80 new subscriptions in Ottawa, and 10 more from Hamilton, thus making 160 since the previous issue. This is at the rate of 9 new names per day, and is most encouraging to us.

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He was a sturdy Scotchman, and he stood before the new city hall, gazing up at the simple legend over the portal. Then he turned to his wife.

'Annie,' he says, 'd'ye see hoo the Scots will be iver cappin' them a'? I dinna ken who this mon McMIX may be, but his name above the door yonder makes my heart leap with pride.'

The building bore the date, MCMIX.