

advice in dealing with officers of the malingering type. Nevertheless, the Commissioner reports that there has been no diminution in the number and frequency of absences from duty, while among female telephone attendants the conditions as to excessive sick leave have become intensified. During the last three years 31 per cent. of the permanent officers of the Postal department have been absent from duty for long or short periods through sickness. During the last official year 43 per cent. of female officers in the Postal department were absent on sick leave, compared with 29 per cent. of male officers. In Western Australia no less than 82 per cent. of female telephonists took sick leave. The average duration of sick leave was about 26 days. For the whole staff, however, the average duration was only 6.2 days.

During the year the payment for temporary and exempted service was £340,398, while the expenditure in salaries for the permanent staff was £1,935,797. The Commissioner considers that "in many instances temporary work was found for persons at the request of interested parties who desired to exercise patronage," and he recommends the furthering of the system whereby temporary servants should be selected from those who have passed examinations qualifying them for permanent employment.

Apart from the service of Parliament and the naval and military forces, the Federal public service consists of 13,987 permanent officers, 14,054 exempted officers and 3,334 temporary employees, a total of 31,375. The three transferred departments — Customs, Defence and Postal — have been augmented during Commonwealth control by 2,244 officers, and the salaries expenditure has been increased by £374,084. In the central staffs there are altogether 552 officers, with salaries averaging £220.6. In the other staffs there are—Customs, 1,111 officers, salaries £201; defence, 137 officers, salaries £172.1; postal, 12,187 officers, salaries £128.5. The increase in the number of officers in all departments has been 457, against 1,078 for the preceding year. The postal service absorbs 28,587 workers, of whom 12,372 are in classified positions. During the year 186 positions were abolished, the salaries saved being £26,203. The new permanent appointments were 1,098, with £56,402 salaries. The total salaries paid were £1,566,393, an increased expenditure of £50,035 a year. The increments amounted nominally to £66,211, actually to £34,094. The average salary per officer was as follows:—New South Wales, £159; Victoria, £154; Queensland, £169; South Australia, £166; Western Australia, £178; Tasmania, £163.

As the Public sees us. — An Interesting Press Comment on the Civil Service.

Extracts from a Recent Appreciative Editorial in the *Fredericton Gleaner* on Present Conditions and Future Prospects in the Civil Service.

Professor Shortt, civil service commissioner, makes the gratifying statement that the non-partisan service is gaining favor with both parties. The system prevails in respect to the appointments of most de-

partmental clerks at Ottawa, who number over two thousand. To some extent the non-partisan commission also regulates promotion, but political and official influence have not yet disappeared there. So far as the