

ments be instructed to notify—through the medium of their Advisory Committees—members of the Association to report immediately, in writing, any error or errors which may be found in the assessment notices with which they were served. Such reports to be placed in the hands of the Advisory Committees and later submitted by this committee to the Assessment Commissioner for correction.

Your committee would further recommend that they be authorized to have printed a sufficient number of copies of notices for the use of the Advisory Committees in this connection.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) G. S. HUTCHINSON,
A. E. CARON,

Committee on the Taxation of Civil
Servants' Incomes.

TAPPING THE WISDOM-WIRES.

Interviews With the Worthies
Through the Humble Media-
tion of Mercutio.

*"Who tells me true, though in his
tale lie death, I hear him as he
flattered."*—Anthony.

I went forth the other day, wearing the deep disguise of an editor of THE CIVILIAN, to interview various folk on the present condition of the civil service. Some I looked for could not be found, others were only too importunate with suggestions and resumé. Out of the heterogeneous harvest of opinions gathered I have winnowed these few for cold storage in your pages. The future must decide between the wheat-bins and the has-beens. I give these now for what they are worth.

Hitching my wagon to a star, I entered the Department of Planets and Ponds. The Deputy Minister was suffering from a severe headache

occasioned, he thought, or at least said, by prolonged study of the new Act. The legislation was a profound mystery to him, out of the depths of the darkness of which gleamed as a pillar of light the one assured fact that the salaries of the deputies were to be increased by a thousand each. "This is the first step in reform," said he, "perhaps only a half-battle for the right, but the full victory can be obtained next year by doubling the increase to which I just referred."

The Deputy Minister of Concessions and Side-lines dropped in at this moment for a hand-shake, a common ceremony performed by the permanent heads these days, and endorsed the sentiments of his esteemed confrere. "There is no civil servant, however low his estate," he added, "who cannot take hope from this increase in the salaries of the men who are the roof and crown of the system. In the United States, with a population of nearly a hundred million, the birth of a man-child is always regarded as the registering of another Presidential possibility. With what greater expectations may the more limited number of civil servants not regard the increase in the salaries of these twenty odd officers! It would be interesting in fact," he said, "to have a competent authority calculate the relative chances in the two cases. A statement built on such calculations should go far to comfort the clerks at this juncture."

I left the Hill to seek the seclusion of a Gladstone Avenue car, where I might think over these things in silence. Conductor Greene Tickett, of car 7464, was in charge, and before I knew it was being interviewed by me. He remembered that there had been fears expressed in his union that the increase in pay of the Service would lead to a return to the use of cabs and a consequent falling off in the street car business. This contingency is no longer regarded, he assured me, as a question of practical politics.