

the city. Two years ago when nothing was too hard to publish concerning old and honoured public servants, these very papers were all agog to receive and spread as widely as possible the newest scandal. It is rumored that the knowledge that the CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW was at length a fact is the sole cause of the somewhat tardy and all unexpected expressions of sympathy and encouragement now meted out.

ON PROMOTIONS.

"Promotion should go by seniority, all other things being equal, but merit should be considered before mere length of service; the object being to secure the best men obtainable. When vacancies occur, or the necessary provision has been made by Parliament, those who are otherwise qualified should be eligible for promotion to a higher class, irrespective of the length of time they may have served in the lower."

The efficiency of the service would be very much increased if the higher offices were filled from its own ranks, and if when new appointments to the third class are to be made, preferences were given to those packers, messengers, &c., who have passed the prescribed qualifying examination. No arguments are needed to prove that ambition, the desire to better themselves and to attain to something higher are the strongest motives that move mankind. This being granted, it follows that the knowledge that there is slight hope of rising, that the higher offices are reserved for, and, as a rule, filled by persons brought in from outside the service, tends to the discouragement of the officers and demoralization of the service. In many cases the men thus favoured are inferior in natural abilities to those over whose heads they are placed, besides lacking the knowledge gained by years of practical experience.—*Report of Civil Service Royal Commissioners p. 401. 402.*

The hearts of many Civil Servants must have leapt with joy when this recommendation came under their notice, but like nearly the whole of not only this but several other reports of "Royal Commissioners" on this subject, the suggestions have not been acted on. Since the report was published vacancies for several much coveted positions have been filled, some indeed having been in existence at the time the Commission was sitting. In two at least the fortunate recipient has not gained the position by promotion. In each case the berth has been filled by an outsider, whilst equally in each case there have been more than one man in the department where the vacancy has existed not only entitled to promotion by length of service, but in every way fully qualified to fill the post with dignity and success. The appointment of "outsiders" may be legal, it certainly has been only too customary, but is it "fit"? Would any general in command of an army recommend the course? Have not evils attendant upon this very course led to the abolition of purchase in the English Army, and the adoption of promotion from the ranks only, in the French and German armies? It is poor encouragement to intelligent and honourable men to give 20 to 25 of the best years of their life to their country's service and in their old age, when a prize worth having waited, and watched and worked for, seems within their grasp, when it is theirs by right as a reward of long service, to see it given to another. It is a poor compliment to gentlemen selected to act as

royal commissioners, to see their work rendered futile, by the neglect of their recommendations, and to see the government,

Still go on from day to day
Just as they always went.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is understood that there is a project on foot for starting in the city a club, to be confined to members of the Civil Service, open to every member of the Service both inside and outside without ballot or any condition beyond the payment of a small annual fee.

The idea is an excellent one, intended to produce that kindly intercourse which should prevail.

Before it takes shape we shall be glad to hear the views of those who feel interested in the subject.

In our first number appeared a sketch of the life of Mr. William Smith, deputy minister of marine and fisheries, contributed by one of Ottawa's leading literary men. In this number we give a biography of C. E. Panet, deputy minister of Militia and Defence, whilst sketches of the other deputy heads will appear from time to time in the order of their seniority of appointment. An impression seems to have been entertained in some quarters that the REVIEW was pandering to certain of the authorities that be. This is not the case, we have no desire to be either unduly laudatory, or unnecessarily severe. Whilst we will always be happy to say a good word where we can, we will remember the old adage "de mortuis, et de viribus, nil nisi verum."

"We will see how the REVIEW goes on" has been the answer of several members of the service when asked to subscribe. They are prudent, but meantime buy a copy.

Answers to Correspondents.

"Unknown Friend, your anonymous communication is declined. Vituperation is no argument, and we neither desire nor will accept letters of a violent or personal character.

Service Opinion.

Ottawa, 27th Feb., 1893.

Gentlemen,

I have read the first number of the CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW with a great deal of pleasure and herewith enclose my subscription of \$1.00.

I would suggest that you do not depend upon the circulars to secure subscribers but send an active canvasser through every department; take a year, six months or even a quarter's subscription, and trust to your own merits for renewals. The Service, as a whole, is lethargic, and even the instinct of self-preservation will not induce a very large proportion to walk up to the Captain's office and settle, but, if sought out in their rooms, they will cheerfully give something. I trust your paper will meet with such patronage that it will become a permanent institution.

Common talk round the House, indicates that the Government bills affecting the Civil Service will be dropped for this session.

Verbum Sap.

Has it ever struck the Mater familias and the Pater familias of fashionable Ottawa that they might do better for their own future comfort and pleasure, in their declining years, not to speak of that of their progeny, but not following quite so closely in the track of Mistress Vanity Fair, of London, and New York, in the matter of expensive balls, dinners, euchre parties, *et hoc genus*, and the keeping up of the necessary style in order to indulge in this description of pastime? We speak with all due deference and respect for the accomplished and beautiful ladies of the Capital, whom we are prepared to Champion if they will allow us, in our little way, against all the world, including his wife, who is perhaps the greater power of the two. To step down to particulars, we venture to hazard the statement that the main desire in giving these balls, euchre parties, etc, etc, is not so much to afford themselves pleasure, as they have in most cases long since seen the inanity, and hollowness of all such dissipation, but to settle their darlings in life. Now the postulate we submit, in all humility, is this, to wit, that the more balls, euchre parties, etc, are given the further you are from attaining your very laudable object, judging by Ottawa's experience in the last decade. How many of our amiable daughters, of the class of the community to which our remarks are directed, have wedded during that period young men of this City? Our recollection points to very few indeed, and these few not to the most substantial of our citizens. Let any candid critic go over the past ten years in his mind's eye, and think how many of our young Fashionables have gone to other cities for their wives, and how many of our own charming daughters languish in beautiful and enchanting, but solitary, maidenhood. Have any of our comparatively small salaried Dons and Donneses of the Capital ever, in the whirl of their feverish excitement spent a few contemplative moments in considering what is the meaning of all this unhealthy excitement of young minds? Have they not remembered as for years past the fact that marriages, as time progresses, are fewer and farther between, and that their goal is still a goal? And can any other result be looked for? We will recount a few of the reasons which in our humble view, make any other outcome entirely out of the question.

1. The young men instead of saving money to provide for a wife and children, house and furniture, and servants, and coal, and taxes, and decent clothing, and church and charity, (last but not least) spend their substance in dress and drives and possibly presents to their temporary innamorata, and in the intervals between the balls and parties, in keeping up the excitement in still more questionable resorts than euchre parties, and balls, and picnics.

2. Those who furnish this successive entertainment and pay the piper, are unable to come to the rescue with dots for their daughters, or any future expectations, their substance being swallowed up in providing it.

3. The young men and the young women see so much of each other, and their mutual weak points, that they do not contract a desire for closer relationship.

4. After a term of years of this feverish excitement, they are, although abhorring it and recognizing the sad consequences for their future welfare, unable to quit it, being much in the same position as slaves to opium and drink.

We think the motto of our forefathers and foremothers in this respect *Festina lente* is the one that should be more generally followed than it is, not only here, but in all our great and little cities of civilization.

As a substitute for all this frivolous, expensive,