

McPherson has a distaste for tobacco in all its forms, a physical distaste, and yet he gathers on an average of ten or twelve cigars a week in the way of quit rent for odds and ends of services he does for visitors at his office. He used to give them to the caretaker, but he has become wiser and now he hits his visitor square in the eye by offering him as soon as he enters the cigar which he received from the same visitor the week before. Of course, he selects his visitors carefully. He uses this treatment only on the hardened sinners who come moving around for favours. The effect has been good. These fellows took up McPherson's time and considered him well-repaid with a smoke. They find McPherson in the cigar-tossing game himself and it puzzles them. "What is he after," they query, and they hardly ever return to find out.

This is a broad subject and I have touched only the borders of it in this talk of mine. And that reminds me that I must reserve for some future date the schemes of reform I have in mind. When the tumult and the shouting of the other reciprocity discussion dies away and I can line up the members of the two houses for a confidential chat, I shall be able, I trust, to go freely and frankly into the other phases of this question.

P.S.—The Editor informs me that I have said enough on this head. "Silas is golden", said he once with a wink which meant that he could make quite a joke if he only let himself out.

The sympathy of the service goes out to Mr. William Smith, Secretary of the Post Office Department in the death of his only daughter Marion by drowning at Britannia, on August 2.

THE OTTAWA C. S. ASSN.

Holidays continue to thin the members of the executive on duty, and as a result no meeting has been held during the past fortnight. Certain of the sub-committees, however, have been moving—notably the co-operation committee—and the interval between the present and the end of the Association's year promises to be one of activity.

Much interest has been felt in the interview of the officers with the Prime Minister on the Third Division question. That it has not been devoid of results is shown by the following letter received last week by the secretary:

Ottawa. 1 August 1911,

Gentlemen,—

The Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier has referred to me the petition you left with him on July 24th with respect to the Clerks in the 3rd Division.

I shall be very glad to carefully read this over and discuss it with my Colleague, the Honourable Mr. Murphy, under whose administration the Civil Service Act is.

Yours very truly,

SYDNEY FISHER.

The Secretary,

Civil Service Association,

Ottawa.

The sudden demise of Parliament affects the Ottawa service variously. To some the rising of the House always means a lessening of tension. Others are but little affected. All appreciate the cutting off of an hour in the afternoon for the balance of the summer. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and his assistants are the busiest of men in Canada. They, at least among civil servants are permitted to take an interest in elections.