

contingency that not only is it expected that every man shall exercise his electoral suffrage, but whoever fails to do so is sure to be regarded by both the struggling parties as a Philistine, and he must suffer decapitation accordingly. If, however, it be true, as I have heard often asserted by your own people, that asylum superintendents, in common with other public functionaries, owe their appointments most largely to political influence and partisan energy, we need not be surprised when we see them floated out of office on the same wave on which they swam into it.

It would be presumptuous in me to commend for your adoption, anything having no higher prestige than mere British or Canadian usance or merit; yet, I do believe you would be large gainers by a quiet retracement of your steps, in the matter of important appointments to offices, the good and satisfactory working of which depends, in so large a measure, on matured experience; nor would I have you stop here, but go yet farther, and recommend the expediency, as well as the justice, of awarding to superintendents and other faithful officers, a competent retiring allowance, graduated on their length of service. This is the rule in British and other trans-atlantic asylums. It has become the rule, though in a more limited degree, in this province, so that every officer or employee is granted a retiring allowance in a lump sum, which is determined by the length of his or her service. The obvious object and tendency of this system, is to induce all engaged in the service, from the chief down to the scullion, to continue long and to behave well in their respective spheres. I regard it as equally just and politic.

I must not forget to add here, that although public servants in Canada are not prohibited from exercising their electoral franchise, yet it is recommended to them