

while Deputy Minister of Justice under no fewer than seven Ministers.

To have a good Head and Deputy Head is a great advantage to the staff of any Department, for if those in authority are kind and considerate, though firm, in dealing with their associates in the public service, they secure far better results than are possible to chiefs of opposite qualities.

But few people outside the Department — even among those in other branches of the service — know the extent and variety of duties performed by the staff of the Department of Justice. As has been stated, the Department acts as legal adviser to every one of the dozen Departments of the Governments of the Government of Canada, but this is only a small portion of the duties assigned to the Minister and his assistants. The Minister of Justice has the appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada and of the Exchequer Court and the supervision of those Courts. He has the appointment of the Superior and County Court Judges and of all Judges of the territories not organized as provinces. He considers and pronounces upon all applications for fiats for Petitions of Right. He has charge of the proceedings taken for the extradition of fugitives from justice who have come to Canada from foreign countries. He has the oversight of the Dominion Police force. He has charge of the Dominion penitentiaries and has the appointment and supervision of all officers required for their management. There are now six penitentiaries with a site selected for a seventh in the Province of Saskatchewan. Necessarily, as the Dominion has grown, there has been an increase in the prison population and need for increased prison accommodation. This, however, has been provided, from time to time, at the least possible expense to the taxpayers. Under the supervision of the Departmental officers, it has

been possible to build new penitentiaries and add to those already in existence at small expense, as the convicts have been taught to make bricks and cement blocks and to put up buildings which are highly creditable to them and their overseers.

The operation of the Ticket-of-Leave Act has also added a great deal of work to the Department of Justice, the applications for clemency having increased manyfold in the last decade. This measure was passed in 1899, at the instance of the then Minister of Justice (Hon. David Mills) and has admittedly proved of great advantage to the public as well as the prisoners. The idea kept in view is to give the well-behaved first offender a chance to earn a living at large, during a portion of his sentence, in order to accustom him to behaving himself, under the mild supervision of the authorities. The fact that if he again breaks the law he must go back to serve out his sentence is a powerful help to the average first offender, at any rate to his complete reclamation to society. To provide a much needed assistance to the convict, on his trying to get a new start, the Government a few years ago, on the recommendation of the then Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) appointed a parole officer, whose duties have been performed with noteworthy fidelity and success.

It is worthy of remark that the work of the Department of Justice has been much added to by virtue of the general public entertaining an erroneous conception as to the nature of the duties of its chief. The Minister of Justice is *ex-officio* His Majesty's Attorney-General for Canada, and he is the adviser of the Governor-General in all matters of clemency, his duties in this respect being akin to those performed in Great Britain by the Home Secretary. But the term "Minister of Justice" leads many persons to believe that he is the general adjuster of all cases of injustice (or supposed