

no indication of the vast sums thrown away by the purchasers of gold bricks, mining stocks, fake remedies, worthless lands, and so forth. According to the United States Post Office figures, 1,063 of those who are alleged to have operated these fraudulent schemes were arrested by the Post Office inspectors. They included persons in all walks of life—merchants, mechanics, politicians, professional men, paupers, and millionaires. During the year 452 persons were convicted and sentenced, and there are 571 cases awaiting final disposition. Orders to the inspectors to collect evidence that warrants the criminal prosecution of the swindlers are gradually building a wall of protection against such frauds around the people, of which they stand in great need.

INADEQUATE SALARIES.

(From the *Victoria Colonist*.)

Our attention has been drawn to the case of a Dominion government official, in a position of considerable responsibility, who has to live as best he can on a salary of \$85 a month. We shall not be more specific than this, and we assume that there are other cases of equal hardship. We do not believe the people of Canada wish their public servants to be kept on starvation salaries. It is very desirable that public offices should be filled by competent men, and that such men have no inducement to remain in a position if they are not paid enough to give a decent living, requires no argument. There is no use in saying that officials who think they are ill-paid have only to resign, and that there are plenty of others ready to take their places. In the first place, the government ought not to make the public service attractive only to cheap men. In the next place it is grossly unfair to a member of the

civil service to tell him to get out, if he cannot live decently on his salary. A young man enters the public service with salary enough for a boy. He keeps on expecting preferment, which comes in the course of time, perhaps. He gets old enough to think of marriage, and if he yields to that not unnatural desire of mankind, he sentences himself and his wife to a life of constant struggle, unless he is one of the lucky minority who fill the higher offices. If children come, his condition becomes worse. Perhaps at 35 he finds himself with a wife and three children, who must be housed and clothed respectably. He gets about the same pay as the man who sweeps the streets. He finds the struggle a hard one. Suppose he resigns. His position is difficult, for he has been trained in a narrow official groove that does not fit into any part of the mechanism of general business. Public servants ought to be paid what their services are worth, not what others will take the jobs for. This country is rich enough to give those who work for it enough salary to enable them to live decently.

A Necessary Interruption.

Mr. Murphy, a contractor, having made a great deal of money, purchased a handsome motor-car, and one day Mrs. Murphy invited Mrs. Clancy to have a ride in it. "Whatever you do, Mrs. Clancy, don't talk to the 'shofer' at all," she said—"not a word or a whisper to him, for it takes his mind off what he is doing!" They started out at a rapid pace, and the chauffeur steered the car first round one corner and then another in such a way that the vehicle appeared to be on only two wheels. Mrs. Clancy touched the chauffeur on the back to arrest his attention. "Mr. Shofer, I beg your pardon!" she said. "I was told not to speak to you at all; but let me tell you that Mrs. Murphy hasn't been in the car for the last ten minutes!"