

some years, offer some humble if not over sage advice.

Well then, it is our opinion that there are few administrative positions in the service where free rein is given to ambitious initiative. Many of the occupations in the service are of such a nature that the faculties are scarcely kept up to standard, much less developed to the fullest extent. Even though a civil servant may throw himself into his official life with the enthusiasm of a Hercules, he will not keep as fit intellectually as those in the outside world who have to do battle with their wits for their daily bread with the prospect of unlimited rewards.

Therefore it seems natural to suggest that we should, out of office hours, make up for the deficiencies of opportunity in official life. Get busy; take up a hobby. If you can make some money, all the better, for salaries do not automatically increase with the cost of living, and our masters, the people, are deaf and blind or otherwise engaged. But in any case *do* something. Become a crank about something,—write a book,—take up a hard course of reading,—study a language,—run for alderman,—take part in some civil service movement. Do something and do it *hard* and save yourself from this ossification they talk about.

The foregoing is written from the heart by one who, luckily, at an early stage in service life enjoyed the benefit of a mentor, who pointed out the pitfalls which beset the unwary. The word in season is spoken with all respect and sincerity to our brothers and sisters of service in the firm belief that some such suggestion as is here offered is very desirable and necessary.

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FREDERICK P. GUTELIUS.

The biggest single publicly-owned going concern in Canada is the Inter-colonial railway. To be general man-

ager and to have full control of this great institution, the Government of Canada has appointed Mr. Frederick Passmore Gutelius at a salary of twenty thousand dollars per year. This is the largest salary ever paid to a government employee in the Dominion. To every civil servant this action of the Government is significant, for in it is recognized the great principle of fitting the individual to the position and then paying him what his services are worth. Disregard of this principle by the Government has cost the country the services of scores of the brightest and ablest men who ever entered the civil service. They resigned because, under the inelastic and indiscriminating civil service laws, they could not receive the recognition and remuneration which their talents merited, while private employers were prepared to give that practical reward which fosters ability and industry. Adoption by the Government of this same principle and its application to all grades of employment is the first essential in the building up and strengthening of the public service of the Dominion.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

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There are many matters of general service interest happening in various parts of the Dominion. As many of these are beyond our powers of observation, we will be obliged, and the service will be served, if any of our readers will mail us a note of such events, or a clipping from any paper containing a notice of affairs which may be a source of interest or which may forward in any way the more serious considerations involved in a great public service organization.

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The Editors have received a letter signed "Old Soldier" and will be glad to publish same if the writer will simply send his name for the purpose of reference and not for publication.