

ments have made the limit a day or two.

Notwithstanding this openly expressed opinion, it is worthy of note that the draft bill to amend the Civil Service Act submitted by this Commission, that of 1892, continues the old system of qualifying examinations as does the bill of which notice was given this year, and which was printed.

The late Commissioners, however, go further. They do not in their bill come up to the high tide of their convictions, but on page 401 and 402 they make strong recommendations. How have these been acted on? Recent appointments suggest the answer, in the words of the old poet:

"Audiit, et vote Phœbus succedere partem  
Mente dedit, partem volucres dispersit in auras."

The old principles of patronage have been maintained; promotion has been given, not as the reward for long service, and because of technical qualifications painfully acquired, but as a quid pro quo for services rendered in the political arena, by men outside the service. Common justice is again ignored, and the affection for partisan tests renewed, until, from disappointed and qualified men, grown grey in their departments, goes up the sigh, "Ephraim is joined to his idols."

#### SHOULD PAY THE TAXES.

The order promulgated in the Post Office Department on February 26th, prohibiting members of the department from either seeking or holding the positions of alderman or school trustee, continues to excite much attention. It is rumored that the order was the result of wire-pulling by certain citizens, who having occupied seats at the board of the civic council, have had their seats successfully contested by gentlemen in the department. This may or may not be the case, but the fact remains that men having a property interest in the city, an interest acquired by their own industry and economy, have been disenfranchised. They, as well as every other holder of real estate in the city, are taxed on these properties, but by the action of this order-in-council, they are virtually told that they must have no voice in the expenditure of the money accruing from these taxes. Jack, Tom and Harry, who have axes to grind, may be eligible for seats at the Council Board, and use the proceeds of the civil servants' taxes as his grindstone, but the civil servant owning property, and possessed of all the intelligence and probity necessary to a good alderman, or worthy school trustee, may only look on. Surely the logical conclusion would be that the government should invite the holders of property thus disenfranchised, to send the demands for their assessed taxes to the Auditor-General for payment, since they arbitrarily take away the benefits accruing from the payment of such taxes.

#### ANXIOUS ENQUIRIES.

"What is the CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW for?"  
"What's at the bottom of it?" There are plenty of civil servants who would be glad to take it up if they knew what it was for." These enquiries are fre-

quently made of us by men who from their position we suppose able to read English at any rate. Had these gentlemen read the prospectus published in the two first numbers, or the first editorial, they would have seen the aims and objects of the REVIEW. As apparently they have not done so, we will endeavor to answer them now. The REVIEW is the outcome of a feeling, openly expressed at a conference of a few representative civil servants held some months since; that the members of the civil service had no organ distinctively their own, in which matters of interest to themselves and the service could be discussed. At that time there had been for some months existing more than sufficient evidence to prove that the civil service and its administration were used by members of Parliament as a political weapon merely. Charge upon charge had been made both in Committee and on the floor of the House, which showed that the men making them had but a very small amount of information as to the interior working of the service, whilst personal attacks, which we do not propose to touch here, had also been made. Except the various daily papers, the members of the service had no means of protesting, and although this means was open to them there existed this objection, that all the "dailies" were tinged with politics of some sort, and many of them very highly colored. The *Whitehall Review* has long been an organ of the English Civil Service, managed it is true by men outside the service, but devoted to its interests, and it was deemed advisable to institute an organ of a similar character for Canada. This answers the first part of the question. As regards the assurance that many would be glad to "take it up" if they knew what was at the bottom of it, very little need be said. When a man pays his subscription to a daily paper, he does not as a rule consider himself thereby bound to even believe, much less endorse, all that paper may editorially state. Nor does he go round to enquire whether the proprietor is most regular in his attendance at Church, or his libations to Bacchus. He simply takes his paper, and if it suits him continues to do so; if it does not, he lets his subscription exhaust itself and then tries another. All we ask is that members of the service will treat us in the same way, and that those members who have anything of interest to their own or other departments to communicate will favor us with either articles or letters, as long as personalities and opprobrious names are avoided.

#### IN MEMORIAM.

LIEUT. A. R. GORDON.

Lieut. A. R. Gordon, of the Royal Navy, for many years Commodore of the fleet engaged in the protection of the Canadian Fisheries, died at his residence on Wilbrod Street, on the morning of Friday, March 24th, in the 42nd year of his age. His death was not unexpected, as he had for some time been suffering from consumption. Lieut. Gordon was born and educated in Scotland, receiving his commission as Midshipman in the Royal Navy in 1870. He retired in 1873, and soon after came to

Canada, where he settled, and married a daughter of Sir Melville Parker, bart. In 1884, '85 and '86 he was in command of the expeditions sent out by the Canadian government to explore the Hudson Bay waters, and had previously been in command of the Imperial government's Alert expedition. He then became commander of the Fisheries protection fleet, which position he held until the abolishment of the office in 1891. The disease which proved fatal to him had by that time made considerable progress, and during his last season afloat he was obliged to have an assistant on board with him. He was also connected with the Meteorological Department in Toronto. Recently an Order-in-Council was passed, by which he was appointed Nautical Adviser to the Marine and Fisheries Department. The funeral took place at 4 p.m. on the afternoon of Sunday, March 27th, the remains being removed to Toronto for interment.

MR. MICHAEL DOLAN.

The main vestibule of the House of Commons was the scene of a very sudden death on Sunday, March 27th, when Mr. Michael Dolan, for over 14 years the respected night watchman of the House of Parliament, fell dead at the foot of the steps leading into the Commons lobby. The deceased had not long gone on duty, and had been down in the messengers' room chatting pleasantly with the other occupants. About six o'clock he started for a tour of the building, and soon after was found lying on his face in the vestibule unconscious. Dr. Landerkin, M.P., was in the House at the time, and quickly responded to a call, pronouncing life extinct. The cause of death was the rupture of a blood vessel on the brain. Deceased leaves a family of two daughters and four sons. Interment was made at Vinton cemetery, on Tuesday, March 29th.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Owing to the serious illness of the author, we regret to be unable to give our readers the second part of Chapman Chilcott's paper on Salmon. We regret both the circumstance and cause, and hope ere long the gallant author will again revel in the amusement of writing.

#### No Act this Year.

The announcement made by Hon. G. E. Foster in the House of Commons, in March, that the Civil Service Act, which had been printed and circulated, would not be further proceeded with this session, will be hailed with delight by the majority of the members of the Civil Service. The hope has already been expressed that when next a Civil Service Act is introduced it will include a system of competitive examinations, based upon justice and fairness, and promotion by merit and seniority, all other things being equal.

Men are modest. They are content to see themselves in print, but ladies want to see themselves in silk or velvet.

An utter mistake—A lapsus lingue.

Motto for Ottawa—"Gas is all right in the main, but all wrong in the drain."