

they disliked their task exceedingly. Lot's wife cannot take her ravished eyes from the Sodom of the past, though admonished thereto by Heaven and Earth: with unexpected results for the poor lady.

There seems to be a confused notion abroad that classifying the duties of departments, and providing means for the accomplishment of such duties, is bound up with the matter of salary increases. But what connection subsists between the two other than an incidental one? It has been decreed that, for the clearer view and more accurate knowledge that will be gained, and for the better performance of the work, the duties of each department shall be definitely set down in a formal document (an order-in-council) and for the time being established. It is precisely what Permanent Heads ought to have done for their own guidance under the old system; still more what they should do now that they have full authority for it, when it is expected of them, and when not to do it is to continue a system that has suffered an almost complete breakdown.

#### The Sanhedrim of Deputies.

A meeting of deputy ministers was held last week at which, as we understand from the press, a certain agreement as to mode of procedure was arrived at. If the information that has gone to the public be true, it is clear that this agreement is based upon the narrowest possible interpretation of an Act which is fairly open to more than one construction. Briefly stated, the Sanhedrim decided that while, as to the First Division, transfers might be made at discretion to either Sub-division (see sec. 5, subsec. 2), *there*

only was there any option. All the rest of the service must be transferred automatically under Section 6. It did not occur to these gentlemen apparently that by construing this section thus narrowly and divorced from the context, they were defeating not only the spirit of the whole measure, but definitely violating the spirit and the letter of Section 8. Does Section 8 mean anything, or does it not? Here it is in cold type:

8. As soon as practicable after the coming into force of the Act, the head of each department shall cause the organization of his department to be determined and defined by order in council, due regard being had to the status of each officer or clerk as the case may be.

2. The order in council shall give the names of the several branches of the department, with the number and character of the offices, clerkships and other positions in each, and the duties, titles and salaries thereafter to pertain thereto.

3. After being so determined and defined, the organization of a department shall not be changed except by order in council.

4. Copies of such orders in council shall be sent to the Commission.

There is an almost overpowering irony in the suggestion that the greatest bar to real reform should be pedantically erected by those whose interest in reform should be strongest.

We are not now concerned with the advantage that would result to this man or that man from a proper carrying out of the re-organization clause. That is after all a petty consideration in face of the vital question of whether the service is to be re-organized as the Statute most explicitly calls for, and in accordance with the reasonable expectation of every intelligent man in the Dominion. If it is not to be properly organized, let that fact be known, and let the men who are responsible be known also if only as an example and a warning.