

## FEMALE CLERKS ARE NOT WANTED BY HIS LORDSHIP.

"No female clerk need apply," is the sign Mayor Martin put over the City Hall yesterday afternoon when he told the Board of Control that girls might be acceptable as typists, stenographers and telephone operators, but not as clerks, for "I have seen enough of girl clerks in Ottawa."

The discussion arose when Controller Ainey wanted the city to employ a girl whose duties would embrace clerical work other than typewriting. "No girl clerks in the City Hall," was the uncompromising mayoral reply and His Worship then explained how his experience of "girl clerks in Ottawa" has left him with but scant respect for the clerical abilities of the fair sex.

The proposal was dropped.

The above, from the *Montreal Star* of recent date, is an uncalled-for insult aimed at the ladies of the Civil Service, Ottawa, and comes as a revealing flash of would-be sarcasm from the one and only (thank goodness) Mederic Martin, M.P., who when the House is in session, occasionally takes some time off from his regular occupation of foisting the Tramways deal on the people of Montreal, and damning the English, and runs up to Ottawa just often enough to lose none of his sessional indemnity. For Mederic is a patriotic soul at so much per. Readers of the *Montreal press* will know the characteristics of this charming legislator well enough to appreciate the value of any opinion coming from one who so often "just opens his bally mouth and lets it say what it likes."

The ladies of the Civil Service, Ottawa, need no defence. Only the truism that all thrown mud does not return to the morass from whence it came, explains why the remark is not ignored. Silent contempt is all that it merits.

But it is a too well known fact that Mederic Martin, M.P., is not the only offender, in the House and out of it, who has seen fit to sneer at a splendid body of people, who because of their

positions are unable to openly resent the grossly unfair charges made against them. Readers of the history of Civil Service legislation will find such honourable gentlemen among those lined up *against* any proposed measure to better conditions against which they at other times and places rail.

Perfection in all cases is unattainable, but a high degree of efficiency has been reached by the faithful, hardworking lady clerks at Ottawa, and Mayor Martin may do far worse than introduce the much needed elevating influence of a few ladies in the civic offices of Montreal.

## THE NEW FIRE ALARMS.

For about four years, a gang of men have been at work in certain Government buildings in Ottawa, creating dirt, din and disorder and slowly but surely installing an elaborate system of automatic fire alarms. All the buildings on Parliament Hill, the Langevin Block and the Military Stores building have been so equipped. Lately the electrical workers have been engaged in the West Block, and a test of the alarm equipment in that building was made a few days ago, with highly satisfactory result. Fire Chief Graham has, ever since assuming his present position, contended for better fire protection in the Government buildings. Most of the scandalous conditions revealed by his first inspection have now been eliminated and with the new alarm system the principal buildings will be among the best protected instead of the most dangerous in Ottawa.

## BRITISH SOLDIERS.

M. Clemenceau, writing in the "*Homme Enchaîné*," says: "The British soldiers, treating war as a higher form of sport, have placed on record such deeds that they can claim a renown which the greatest alone have been able to equal, or rather if I may say so, a pre-eminence in equality."