

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. IV.

MAY 19th, 1911

No. 2

The Department of Justice.

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That the Department of Justice is an important division in the Canadian public service is demonstrated by the eminence of the statesmen who have, from time to time, been called on to preside over it. On the accomplishment of Confederation, the first Minister of Justice selected was Hon. (afterwards Sir) John A. Macdonald, who was also Prime Minister. He had several eminent successors, including Hon. (afterwards Sir) A. A. Dorion, who became Chief Justice of Quebec; Hon. Edward Blake, the Liberal leader; Hon. James McDonald, who retired to become Chief Justice of Nova Scotia; Sir Alexander Campbell, and Sir Oliver Mowat, each of whom was subsequently Lieut.-Governor of Ontario; Sir John Thompson, who died in harness and while Prime Minister; Hon. David Mills, who resigned to become Judge of the Supreme Court; Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, now Chief Justice of Canada; and Hon. Allan Bristol Aylesworth, the present incumbent of the office who gave up a large and lucrative practice at the Bar to enter public life.

The importance of the duties assigned to the office by the Statutes of Canada no doubt accounts for the invariable practice followed in appointing only eminent statesmen and tried lawyers as heads of the Department of Justice. It is not generally known that the Minister of Justice is the official legal member of His Majesty's Privy Council for Canada. He has the superintendence of all matters connected with the administration of justice in Canada not within the jurisdiction of the pro-

vinces. He has to advise upon the legislative Acts and proceedings of each of the legislatures of the provinces of Canada, and generally to advise the Crown upon all matters of law referred to him by the Crown. The office of the Minister of Justice, in consequence, is charged with the task of performing all legal work for every Department of the Government of Canada.

The Minister is, of course, the officer in command, and succeeding Ministers have taken their full share of the duties requiring to be performed; but as time has passed the work of the Department has increased enormously and necessarily details have to be looked after by the Deputy Minister and the staff of officials, legal and lay. These at present number some twenty-five in all, certainly not a large establishment when the amount of work to be performed, and the responsibility attached, are taken into account. The Deputy Minister of Justice has invariably been a lawyer of eminence and on several occasions an incumbent of the office has been deemed worthy of elevation to the Bench. The late Mr. Justice Sedgwick of the Supreme Court, the late Mr. Justice Burbridge of the Exchequer Court of Canada, and Mr. Justice Richardson of the Northwest Territories all graduated from the Department of Justice, and it is not exposing any secret to say that the present Deputy Minister of Justice (Mr. E. L. Newcombe) is of judicial stature, and will no doubt some day give to his native land as good service on the Bench as he has given