

## ANOTHER VETERAN GONE

Another veteran of the Civil Service of Canada passed away on Sunday, March 9th, in the person of Joseph Pierre Michel Le Court. Deceased was born in Quebec in 1824 and was consequently in his eighty-ninth year. When he entered the Civil Service in 1855 he had already established an enviable reputation as an architect and civil engineer in his native city. In 1865 he was transferred to Ottawa and in 1873 was placed on the staff of the Department of Public Works. About this time he was sent to Manitoba and was there engaged in the erection of public buildings for nine years. The Parliament buildings, post office, customs house and other public structures in Winnipeg were erected under his supervision, as was also the Stoney Mountain penitentiary. During his residence in Ottawa, Mr. Le Court was identified with different movements of a religious and philanthropic character and several churches in the Capital and in Hull were erected from his designs. He married in 1848, Eulalie Paquet, who predeceased him after sixty years of married life. Two sons, J. Eugene LeCourt of the Department of the Interior, and R. J. Le Court of the Department of the Secretary of State, and three daughters survive. The funeral was held in Ottawa on the 12th inst., Mass being celebrated at the Basilica and the remains taken to Beechwood cemetery.

## HOME RULE AND CIVIL SERVANTS.

Under the Irish Home Rule Bill, existing established civil servants who are removable at the present time only for misconduct or incapacity are to continue to receive the same salaries and to have the same status as before. Civil servants who wish to resign on the operation of the measure may do so, and will receive compensation. The Lord Lieutenant has power to remove officers, but no removal can take place without compensation to the disposal official. The main principle of the civil service provisions of the Bill, which are non-contentious, is that vested interests are to be respected. A civil service committee, to be formed of a treasury official, an Irish minister and the Lord Chief Justice of England, is to deal with

difficult cases arising out of the transfer of administration. It will determine all questions relative to existing Irish officers, as, for instance, those who will be employed in the double capacity, both Imperial and local, and will ascertain the amount of the pension, allowance or compensation of the officials retiring voluntarily and those to be displaced. The case of unestablished officials presents features of difficulty, but the government promise that the civil service committee will decide all such questions in a spirit of generosity. "If prophesies and promises are to be taken at their face value," says the *British Civilian*, "the Irish Civil Service has little to fear."

At the conference of the various Educational Societies at the University of London some days ago, Phoebe Sheavyn introduced the subject of "The Educational Issues raised by the Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service." "Very few posts," said Miss Sheavyn, "are open to highly educated women—a few under the Board of Education, a few in the Board of Trade, and one or two in the Home Office. I believe this to be a real loss to the public service. Highly educated women often possess a gift for administration. They possess knowledge and the means of obtaining more knowledge not commonly found in men and not without its importance in a world where half at least are women. Moreover, a given salary—not quite the highest—will at present attract a higher type of woman than man. Again, owing to chances of marriage, possibilities of promotion would be to some extent increased by the employment of a certain number of women. Further, some of the difficulties amongst younger women in the lower posts would be greatly mitigated by the presence of older women on the staff, even though not specially engaged in superintending."

A theological student was sent one Sunday to supply a vacant pulpit in a western town. A few days after he received a copy of the local weekly paper with the following item marked—"The Reverend — conducted the service at the parish church last Sunday, and the church will now be closed three weeks for repairs!"