

HON. L. O. TAILLON.

Hon. Louis Olivier Taillon, K.C., D.C.L., who has recently been appointed to the important office of postmaster of the city of Montreal, is one of Canada's old and respected politicians. He was born in 1840 and called to the bar in 1865, having since then a distinguished career in the legal profession.

He was one of the originators of the French-Canadian National congress in Montreal in 1874 and began his political career when he was elected member for Montreal East in the Quebec legislature in 1875. He was speaker of the assembly from 1882 to 1884, in which year he became attorney-general of the province. He was leader of the opposition in the legislature from 1886 to 1890 and premier of the province from 1892 to 1896. He was appointed postmaster-general in 1896 but was unsuccessful at the federal general elections of that year and 1900, after which he retired to private life after long and honorable service. He is an uncle of Sir Rodolphe Forget of Montreal.

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION.

The report of the Commission of Conservation on "Lands, Fisheries and Game, and Minerals" is a work which reflects credit upon the country and upon those who prepared it.

It deals exhaustively and authoritatively with the subjects to which it is devoted, subjects which, hitherto, have not been well enough understood even by our public men. By patient labour and by availing themselves of all sources of information, some of them very obscure and hard to find, the officers of the Commission, with the assistance of other experts, have succeeded in bringing together in useful and most attractive form facts which, being made

known to the public, must help to enlighten the public mind on the conservation of natural resources and strengthen the public determination to prevent waste and to improve, where possible, our great heritage. The difference between barbarism and civilization is the difference between waste and use—between a lack of public policy and a wise public policy of Conservation.

CUSTOMS ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA.

The Ottawa Customs Association held its annual meeting January 4th. Reports from officers showed that 1911, the first year of the association's existence, was very successful. A resolution of condolence was adopted for the family of the late P. E. Ryan, who died last autumn while president of the association. It was decided to reduce the fees of members from \$3 to \$1 per year, there being an unnecessarily large surplus in the treasury. A constitution was adopted. It declares the object of the association to be "maintenance of goodfellowship among its members and promotion of their mutual interests." The officers for 1912 elected are: Hon. Pres. F. M. Journeaux; Hon. Vice-Pres. R. A. Clarke; president, R. Spittal; vice-president, A. M. Routhier; secretary, W. Gilchrist; treasurer, W. J. Fairbairn; delegate to the civil service federation, T. H. Burns; auditors, C. Whittier and F. Kehce.

Thousand of reindeer are now in Alaska, and are multiplying rapidly. The Eskimos and others who own them find them indispensable for food and useful for transportation of their produce. The meat of the reindeer is used extensively for food in the cities, and it is said to be as good as the best beef.—The Argonaut.