

There are only a limited number of chief clerks attached to each department, who have received their promotion either from long service or from being pronounced partisans.

It is something very unusual for a chief clerk to be raised to the office of a Deputy Minister, but we have recently had pleasing exceptions to this rule in the case of the Department of Finance and of the Auditor-General's office.

Thus, it is evident that the civil service is not a desirable vocation for a young man who is enterprising, ambitious, and determined by hard work, study, and perseverance, to climb from the lowest rung of his profession in life to the highest. An aspiring, talented young man finds in the civil service that his hands are tied, his energy restrained, his schemes snubbed; he is, as it were, attached to a chain, which permits him to go so far and no further. Moreover, he dare not be too officious or more observing than his superior officer; he must never forget his subservient position, the consciousness of which is occasionally forced upon him in a humiliating manner.

How different are the surroundings and prospects of an energetic, "live" man outside of the civil service! He has in view numerous vacancies, occupations, professions, opportunities, which have more scope, more money, higher honours in prospect, than are associated with any clerkship in the service of the Government. If he be a moral, temperate, industrious, and enterprising man with education such as the civil service clerks usually possess, he will be a happier, better man, with more self-respect, more freedom of action, than he would

be as a clerk checked by fixed hours, by departmental laws, by rules of precedence, and by political influence.

Look at the stagnant position of a second or third class clerk of the civil service. He has no immediate prospect of promotion through extra labour. His daily routine of work dwarfs his intellect unless he is a student after official hours; his life from year to year presents no opportunities for brightening his prospects, no hope of change for the better; like a piece of machinery, he is in a groove which limits the work to be done. If he be a married man, with a family and increasing expenses, in vain does he put forth greater efforts to meet emergencies; his only remedy is self-denial, economy and patience.

However, there are certain privileges connected with the civil service which, in a few respects, may be some compensation for the limited income and stationary position.

The respectable association of the civil service is a very great attraction to those seeking admission to the lower grade or third class clerkships. Being under the control of the Governor in Council, having an Honourable Minister at the head, are circumstances, which imply respectability and integrity and give an employee or clerk a certain standing in a community.

Again, in the service, men are not exposed to that intense rivalry which prevails throughout the various houses of business or among professional men, a competition which demands much anxiety and watchfulness.

Notwithstanding all those offsets in favour of the civil service, it is evident that an energetic, capable and ambitious young man makes a mistake

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