

THE CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Services in Canada.

Per Mens Rectus.

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VOL. I.—NO. V.

OTTAWA, MAY 1, 1893.

Subscription, \$1.00 per annum.
Single Copies, 5 Cents.

The CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW is printed and published for the Civil Service Review Company, by Paynter & Company, at their offices, 48 Rideau Street, Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Ontario. TELEPHONE 938.

The REVIEW is on sale at the following addresses: C. H. Thorburn, Sparks Street, J. Durie & Son, Sparks Street, A. H. Jarvis, Bank Street.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The aim of this REVIEW is to be of real value to all members and every department of the Canadian Civil Service. Correspondence, accompanied by the name of the writer, on any subject of general or special interest is therefore invited. It is not our aim to be the vehicle for airing personal wrongs or grudges, nor will letters of that character be at any time admitted. The REVIEW is ambitious, and in order to achieve success, the most severe abstinence from personalities and partizanship will be enforced. All letters should be addressed

Editor,

CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW,
48 Rideau st., Ottawa, Ont.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Members of either the inside or outside service are invited to submit papers on matters of interest either to their own branch particularly or to the service generally. The same censorship will be applied to such papers as to the correspondence. Postage on all communications must be prepaid, and contributors wishing rejected manuscripts to be returned must enclose stamps for that purpose. Contributions should be in the office by the 10th or 25th of each month. Contributions on strictly service or on scientific matters will be welcomed.

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS.

There is joy in the hearts of the employees of the Marine and Fisheries Department over an order recently issued by the deputy minister, at the instigation and insistence of the acting minister, giving them their Saturday afternoon leave, as in the other departments. It appears that a long time ago the deputy minister issued an order, on whose responsibility does not appear, that all clerks in the department must work on Saturdays during the same hours as on other days of the week. It was no use complaining; the deputy as an autocrat had full power, and an appeal only meant appealing to him, the apparent author of the encroachment. When Hon. C. H. Tupper went to England, and Hon. John Costigan became acting minister, he, in the course of becoming familiarized with the departmental work, also became acquainted with this fact. Immediately he sent for the deputy, and a long interview succeeded. What transpired cannot ever be exactly known, but it is stated that Mr. Costigan remonstrated, and that the deputy minister urged that the work of the department must be carried out punctually. After discussion, in which each held his point, Hon. John Costigan issued his fiat: "Issue an order, that during the period that I am acting minister the clerks will enjoy the same freedom on Saturday afternoon as that enjoyed by the clerks in other departments." This has been done, and as a consequence there is rejoicing. The question raised by all this history is interesting, not only to the employees of the department affected, but to the whole service. The observance of the Saturday half holiday is one of the privileges of the service. It has grown, like the "franking" privilege, to be a right, and its successful abrogation in one department would only be the thin end of the wedge. Pressure of work in any other department would lead inevitably to the thought, "well, the Saturday afternoon has been utilized in the Marine Department, why should extra clerks be placed in this department, when all the permanent clerks are off at one o'clock on Saturdays. We will issue an order that the hours of labor on Saturdays shall be the same as on other days, and save employing more clerks." Hon. John Costigan is to be congratulated, as well as the clerks in the department, on his action and its results. At the same time it is

to be hoped that no such encroachment on the liberty of the clerks will be again attempted.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The recent cases in which much coveted positions in the Civil Service have been given, not to men who have grown up in the department, and who have borne the heat and burden of the day, but to outsiders possessed of some mysterious political influence, and not acquainted with the routine of the department, are not the sole causes of complaint amongst the civil servants at the present time. Promotion never comes very fast, and many a proud father, in the first flush of his ambition, has promised his new born son a toy when he becomes a chief clerk or secretary of his department, but has seen the youngster grow past toys into manhood, and fatherhood, and has himself grown old—old enough for superannuation—but has never reached the height of his ambition. This trouble is, however, seriously increased when officials holding high offices receive promotion to still higher, but are allowed to retain the old position in addition to the new one. This practice is becoming terribly frequent, to the detriment of the rapid transaction of public business, and the manifest increase of discontent amongst the civil servants. There are already four or five departments where this iniquity exists, and rumors are afloat that another will soon be added. This it is most earnestly to be hoped is not the case. Gentlemen will not continue to seek employment in a service where such a practice is permitted, and none but gentlemen are fitted for the positions in question. An abandonment of this policy, and a little healthy promotion would go some way, though but a short one, towards recovering a small portion of the popularity with the service which the present Government has so freely thrown away.

Attention is drawn in an article in another column to cases in which the execution of the recent order-in-council has been the cause of very grave distress. The story told therein of sufferings caused to wives and children of some of the discharged extra clerks is in no wise overdrawn, and may be supplemented by other narratives of the sparer which the services of eminent officers whose career has been such as to re-