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## The Commissioners and the Re-Organization

**Commentary and Personal Sketches. — Disappointing  
Outlook as to Re-Classification. — Section 8 one  
of the Vertebrae of the Act; Section 6  
a Vermiform Appendix. — Plain  
Speech in a Moderate Spirit.**

The all-important fact in the appointment of Professor Adam Shortt and Mr. Michel Larochelle as the commissioners of the civil service, is that they are made, on the plain face of it, in accordance with the spirit of the new Act. Being non-political appointments, it follows as a necessary consequence that they are good ones.

So, likewise, in the future, when we are rid once and for all of this curse of extraneous influence, may we expect to see throughout the body of the service itself the right men succeeding to the places of trust and importance, when these places have been earned by ability and faithful service.

A fortnight since, we set forth in this column what we considered to be the essentials of the ideal commissioners. We mentioned such qualities as organizing ability, courage and unsparing energy. When one is dealing with ideals one can soar high. Yet we have no hesitation in saying that the appointments appeal to us very strongly, fresh though we are from the contemplation of Utopia. We believe the service has obtained, in so far as was possible under the circumstances, the proper men for the work in hand.

Towards the new commissioners, we think we may take it upon ourselves

to say that the service as a whole entertains no other feeling than that of the frankest good-will. In the uncertain future that lies before, everyone will not be pleased; the millenium is not so near as that. We feel, however, that Mr. Shortt and Mr. Larochelle will do all they can to relieve the service of its unnecessary disabilities, and that being men of high character and capacity they will be able to do a great deal. More than this could not be asked for at the present stage.

### Professor Shortt.

Professor Shortt is a man of national reputation, and he is as favorably as he is widely known. Of Scottish parentage, though born in Ontario, he is at present in his forty-ninth year. It was as educationalist and journalist that he first won recognition. After a brilliant course at Queen's University, and subsequently at Edinburgh and Glasgow, he received his first appointment as assistant professor of philosophy at Queen's in 1885, a position which developed in 1889 to that of lecturer, and in 1892 to that of professor of political economy, a chair which he was the first to occupy. He has been a well-known writer on social and economic