

right to say whether such leave shall be granted with full or half pay or without pay.

Simple is it not? Let us see. There is in some Department a good, reliable clerk, John Doe, whose record for more than nine years is an open book to his immediate superior. He has enjoyed as good health as the average man, but in January he is ill for ten days; resumes duty and on March 15, sends word to the office that he is ill again and in due time sends in a doctor's certificate setting forth particulars of the illness. Under the above regulation his pay must be stopped on March 19. Now his superior, Richard Roe, knows that this clerk is not a malingerer, and so recommends under the exceptions provided for above, that he be paid for the time lost, or officially "leave be granted with pay." Does that settle the question? It would in a bank, railroad or other large corporation where the General Manager "has too much to do, to do this little." Under our system of guarding the Treasury an Order-in-Council must be obtained before this worthy public servant, John Doe, can be paid, from March 20th to the end of his illness, no matter how brief that period may be; assuming of course that the illness is not a severe one, such as typhoid fever, pneumonia, etc. What does an Order-in-Council involve? Only the following.

John Doe's superior reports in detail to his Departmental Head (Cabinet Minister). He takes it to a meeting of the Privy Council. The Privy Council sends it along to the very busy and important sub-committee, the Treasury Board. The Treasury Board submits it to the law officers, who decide after careful consideration that it is legal to pay this man as recommended by his superior, Richard Roe. He therefore sends it back to the Privy Council and, presumably, no Cabinet Minister voicing any objection, it is there finally approved. The report of Council is

drafted in correct official language and a truly certified copy is supplied to the Minister for transmission to Mr. Richard Roe, who says "Release pay" and John Doe gets paid.

He should be paid, and the one man who, officially, is in best position in the world to know it, has said so first and last; for had he recommended against "leave with pay" the chances are almost one hundred per cent that no pay would be given. Then why in the name of common sense go through all the steps cited above and add to the "intolerable burden"? A Cabinet Minister in this or any country is only human and therefore has a limited capacity for the things he may do. Therefore, if he devotes a certain amount of time to seeing that hundreds or maybe thousands of John Does get a square deal, such time must be subtracted from the sum total he may devote to the country's business. Either one or the other must suffer and the friends of John Doe, with a "pull," will see that HE does not.

So the poor, unfortunate, harassed Minister goes on, struggling day and night to keep up with the enormous task he has pledged His Majesty to perform until some day we read "must seek a much needed rest" or "forced to retire to private life on account of ill-health." The wonder is that any man can stand it or that important business goes on with the despatch it does. As a matter of fact in a great many cases the proper order is reversed and the Minister attends to petty details while great problems are carried forward by the subordinates of his Department. It will be a great day to look forward to, when the proper balance is obtained and maintained.

When They Get the Vote.

"Mrs. Simpson has been pinched for ballot-box stuffing."

"There, I always knew that the old hen padded!"