

EXTRACT from the minutes of a meeting of the Honorable the Treasury Board,
held at Ottawa, on the Twenty-eighth day of January, 1879.

The Treasury Board have observed with much regret a growing practice on the part of gentlemen in the Public Service to endeavour to influence the Ministry to accede to their applications for increase of salary or additional retiring allowance by means of the private solicitations of Members of Parliament and other persons of political influence.

It is the duty as well as the wish of the Board, to whom these matters are referred, to give the most careful consideration to every representation made to them in the recognized way on behalf of any Public Servant, whatever be his social status or his official rank, with regard to his position, salary or prospects of promotion and also with regard to the amount of his retiring allowance on quitting the Public Service.

It is the practice of the Board to consider questions of salary with reference to the duties and responsibilities of the individual or class whose case is brought before them, and to decide upon them after communication with the head of the Department concerned.

In fixing the amount of retiring allowance in those cases where the Legislature has left the Board a discretion, they have been in the habit of proceeding upon certain principles which they have prescribed for themselves, and within the limit of those principles they endeavor to deal with each case impartially upon its merits.

It appears to the Board that any attempt on the part of an officer to approach them on these matters through the private intercession of persons unconnected with his Department is virtually imputing to the Board either that it is likely to turn a deaf ear to a reasonable application unless supported by political influence or that it may be induced to accede to an unreasonable application if such influence be brought to bear upon it.

The Board decline either alternative, and in order to prevent, for the future, any misapprehension upon this subject they wish it to be understood by every public officer that any attempt made by him to obtain their sanction to his application by any such solicitation as is hereinbefore referred to, will be treated by them as an admission on the part of such officer that the case is not good upon its merits and such application will be dealt with by them accordingly.

The Board direct the Secretary to communicate a copy of this minute to each Department and officer without delay.

S. L. TILLEY,
*Minister of Finance and Chairman of the
Honourable the Treasury Board.*