

sociation's contention, let it be this : that life is altogether too precious a thing to be marred by the caprice or malice of anyone, and that whatsoever protects the individual against possible injustice must needs be sane and sound.

In reference to the strongly-urged recommendation on behalf of the Messengers, the Minister promised that thorough consideration would be given. This should be satisfactory, since the claim advanced is well-founded and will bear the fullest investigation.

On Thursday, June 25th, the Bill came up for second reading in the House. The day was given over to a discussion of Civil Service Reform, the debate being characterized by an almost complete absence of the partisan spirit. It is a happy augury when both sides of the House unite with the common object of securing the best possible legislation upon such a subject. There was no quarrel as to the essential principles which should be followed; the only question was how to give effect to them in the best possible manner. In this spirit it was suggested, and the Government accepted the suggestion without hesitation, that the Commissioners should be given a completely independent tenure of office, similar to that of the Auditor General and of judges. The recommendation of the Association that any clerk adversely reported against by his superiors be given the right of appeal to the Commissioners was adopted by the Minister. Important amendments to sections 5 and 6 of the Bill were also proposed by him, but were allowed to stand over for future consideration. The Civil Service Association, after thorough deliberation, deemed it its duty to make further representations to the Minister in respect to these amendments, and accordingly sent him the following letter:—

Ottawa, June 29th, 1908.

The Honourable Sydney Fisher,
Minister of Agriculture for Canada,
Ottawa.

Sir,—

On the 22nd instant you were good enough to receive the representatives of the Civil Service Association, and to discuss with them certain features of the Civil Service Bill which were made the subject of the Association's brief memorial, then presented. Your courtesy and manifest desire of furthering such of the recommendations as seemed to you to be just and reasonable are greatly appreciated by the Association, and, we may add, by the whole Civil Service. Such being the spirit in which you then received us, we are emboldened to again address you briefly upon the same subject.

Since the occasion above referred to, the Bill has come up for second reading, and certain amendments to sections 5 and 6 were then proposed by yourself, but were for the time being allowed to stand. The Association desires, with your permission, to say a few words upon the subject of these suggested amendments.

SECTION 5, SUB-SEC. 3: The amendment proposed by the Minister is as follows:—

"The second division shall consist of certain other clerks, having technical, administrative, executive or other duties which are such as may qualify them for holding positions in the first division."

The Association is convinced that the object of the suggested amendment is a good one. At the same time, they believe that the distinction between Division I and Division II is not drawn with sufficient clearness to prevent some of the classification evils that now exist from being continued. For example, there is a considerable number of technical and administrative officials whose duties are very important, but who are now ranked as Second or First Class

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