

memorials are documents of permanent value, and the representations made therein, based upon authentic data and observation of the service at close range, are not open to serious challenge. The principle memorial was presented to the Commission on June 26th, when the members of the executive, who were charged with the duty of presentation, were examined. On this occasion the commissioners requested one of the members of the delegation to frame a new superannuation measure and report as soon as possible; and the Bill thus prepared was concurred in by the commissioners, printed in their report, and urged upon the Government for adoption. The Association again waited upon the Commission on October 25th with a brief supplementary memorial relative to the cost of living. In the meantime, the Commission had been steadily taking evidence in Ottawa and elsewhere, concluding this branch of their work about the third week of November.

Then ensued a period of trying delay. From the end of November onwards the Report was expected from week to week, almost from day to day. At length it became known what the impediment was. Two of the commissioners were *fysheing* in that department which has jurisdiction over the watery deep, and would not report until they had made a haul. Their ardor was not easily satisfied (*Sunt lacrymæ rerum!*); but in a world like this all things must end, and the Commission finally reported under date of February 28th, 1908, Mr. Courtney not joining in that portion which dealt with the department referred to. As to this particular part of the Report, its severity is untempered by mercy, and one may, without impropriety, figure the department protesting to the two commissioners in the well-known lines:

"It was all very well to *dissemble*
your love,
But why did you kick me down
stairs?"

In deference to the view expressed

by the Minister in his report to Council, stating that while the general principles of the Civil Service Act were regarded as satisfactory, there were matters connected with its administration which deserved to be inquired into—in deference to this view the commissioners recommend certain changes in the Act, but they are at no pains to hide their contempt for the measure as a whole, being clearly of opinion that it is past praying for, and that it is like a house which has been deeply eaten into by time—patched and shored-up and anon repatched, and worthy only of having the match applied without delay. In so many words, they recommend the repeal of the whole Act. Next in logical order, they recommend the appointment of a permanent commission of three members to administer all matters relative to the service. As to salaries, they conclude that civil servants cannot live in these fat and pursy times under a scale of salaries handed down from remote antiquity, and so recommend for eastern Canada increases of 15 and 12½ per cent. upon salaries under and over \$1,500 respectively, and for western Canada 25 and 20 per cent. As regards superannuation, their view is that the Retirement Act is "no provision at all," and they urge that the proposed Bill accompanying their Report be given the force of law. Other important matters are dealt with which cannot be adequately noticed here, but these, as well as the features above referred to, will in the fulness of time receive attention.

The commissioners draw attention to the Report of the Commission of 1892, and point out that certain recommendations made therein have never been implemented. Their view appears to be that though knowledge came, yet wisdom lingered. As regards the Report of 1908, possibly knowledge and wisdom will go hand-in-hand. At all events, it is a noteworthy circumstance that this Report has caught the ear of the public as few reports have ever done.