

the Act, the Governor in Council may make such appointment or promotion upon the report of the Head of the Department, stating the reasons. No extra clerk shall, except under an Order in Council, be employed in any department, unless for a period not exceeding three months, for which he may be paid at a rate not exceeding two dollars per diem, out of the contingencies of the department, on the certificate of the Head or Deputy Head, unless he be a person of special attainments, and employed as such, he may be paid at a rate not exceeding four dollars per diem. A messenger shall enter the service at a salary to be fixed by the Governor in Council, not exceeding four hundred dollars for the first year, and may thereafter have an annual increase of forty dollars per annum, until his salary is six hundred dollars per annum. If there is any extra work periodically occurring which requires the attendance of any of the clerks over and above their ordinary duties, the Head of the Department may, by written departmental instructions, authorize an extra allowance to be made not exceeding fifty cents per hour for every hour such clerk may be so employed.

Some objection is made to the item of Deputies' salaries, on the ground that they got their increase before. This is true, but it must be stated that the salary is not relatively high to the importance of their services. It is true that they are not, under our system of government, responsible to Parliament, but their duty, as is also that of some of the chief officers, is to assist the responsible Ministers, who, without such aid, would be utterly incompetent to conduct the business of a great department.

A resolution was proposed a few days ago in the House of Commons by Mr. CASEY to provide for competitive examinations previous to entry into the Civil Service. It was opposed by Mr. MACKENZIE, the Premier, and, at his request, withdrawn. This question opens up a wide discussion. Very much may be said in favour of Mr. CASEY'S proposition. In the first place, it is the English custom. But circumstances in England are different from ours, and the system itself is not quite the same. In England, the Deputy Head of a Department is political, and generally he has a seat in the House of Commons, although he is not a member of the Cabinet. On another point, Mr. MACKENZIE stated that it was by no means certain that a competitive examination in the elements of knowledge acquired in schools would always, in all cases, give the most efficient public offices in this country. Our present system does require a satisfactory education. Mr. MACKENZIE'S judgment is entitled to great weight. He is himself one of the most painstaking Ministers that ever held office, and has bestowed laborious study upon the details of his department.

THE NEW FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

The movement of consolidation which is going on in France is too interesting to be disposed of in an ephemeral paragraph. We mean to give a full account of the Constitution voted definitively on the 25th February, of this year, by the large vote of 425 against 254. The Legislative power is exercised by two Assemblies—the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Chamber is elected by universal suffrage; the Senate by a procedure which we described at length in the last number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. The President of the Republic is not elected directly by the people, but by the Senate and Chamber in joint session assembled. His term of office is seven years, and he is re-eligible. The President is given an initiative in the making of laws, concurrently with the two Chambers. He also promulgates and executes laws. The President has the prerogative of reprieve, but amnesties may be granted only by special law. The President is Commander-in-Chief of the Army. He has the appointment of Civil and Military affairs, he

presides at National solemnities, and foreign ambassadors are accredited to him. Every one of his acts must be countersigned by one of his Ministers. By and with the consent of the Senate, the President may dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, in which case, new elections must take place within three months. The Ministers are responsible to the Chambers, but the President is not responsible, except in the case of high treason. In the event of decease or otherwise, the two Chambers jointly will proceed at once to the election of a President. In the interim, the Council of Ministers will exercise executive power. It will be seen from this that no provision is made for a Vice-President. Changes in the Constitution may be made by the joint Chambers and on an absolute majority. The seat of Government will be at Versailles.

The abolition of sales of commissions in the British army—a reform that cost the Government seven millions sterling—is not likely to wholly stop traffic in that line. The new law gave to every officer an amount of money equal to the market value of his berth and strictly forbade any further sales. A backward movement, which has taken the form of a bill in Parliament, aims to officially sanction transfers of officers from regiment to regiment as they themselves may agree upon. The desire of army men who mix in society is to be stationed at home, but, unfortunately for that class of soldiers, there is need of British regiments in India, Africa, and other lonesome and unhealthy places. The old practice was that the rich officer whose regiment was ordered abroad should find a poor officer whose regiment was stationed at home, and bargain for an exchange of commissions, the Government putting no obstacle in the way. The new law also prohibited that custom, and the present bill is intended to revive it. The measure is generally sanctioned by the wealth and nobility of the army, and its success is probable.

The Carlist Gen. CABRERA announces his recognition of ALFONSO as king of Spain. He points to the country's need of peace, and appeals to the patriotism of the Carlists to discontinue a struggle hopeless from a cause which he refrains from revealing. A convention between CABRERA and the Alfonsists is also being published. By its terms Carlist towns, districts and Provinces, submitting within a month, may retain the special and loyal privileges they enjoyed before the war, and any appointment of a Carlist to a civil or military office which has been approved by or may emanate from CABRERA, will be accepted and confirmed by the Alfonsists. To these a report is added, that a Carlist proclamation has appeared, denouncing Gen. CABRERA as a traitor.

Difficulties have arisen between the Indian Government and the King of Burmah regarding boundaries, and the latter's claim to sovereignty over several independent States. In spite of Lord Northbrook's proposal for a mixed commission for the settlement of the questions at issue, the King has occupied the disputed territory, and refuses to withdraw. The British authorities insist on a settlement by the means they have proposed, and troops are going to British Burmah.

A Bill has been introduced into the Nova Scotia Legislature, declaring that County Courts are not at present demanded by the people of Nova Scotia, that the establishment of such Courts will entail a great outlay and increase the burdens of the counties, that the Act is cumbrous in its provisions, and totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the country for the prompt and efficient adjudication of all matters in litigation suitable to be tried in a summary manner. After the above recital, it enacts that the Act be repealed.

SIX MONTHS IN THE WILDS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST AND CORRESPONDENT.

VIII.

THE PIPE OF PEACE—PRESENTS—SPEECHES—DANCES—INDIAN MEN AND WOMEN.

After they were squatted, the men on one side of the pavilion and the wives on the other, the pipe of peace, of red stone, inlaid with silver, and having a long flat stem, was filled with kinnie kinnie by the Chief's henchman and passed around, filling the air with white smoke and a peculiarly agreeable odour. Col. French had his staff and other officers about him, all in full uniform, some sitting on rude benches, and others—myself among them—squatted in front of the Colonel's table in the most approved Indian style. The Force were elbowing each other outside of the entrance, trying to get a glimpse of what was going on inside. First, some ten pounds of black plug tobacco were given, which were counted by the henchman and wrapped up in a blanket. The henchman received all the presents, and it is his duty to distribute them equally to all the warriors. This he does faithfully. After a few preliminary arrangements, one of the warriors got up, shook hands all round, and then made a speech. It is seldom that a Chief undertakes to address an assembly, but always has his speakers with him, whom he advises in council beforehand. The substance of the speech, interpreted by Mr. Leveillé, was as follows: "The Great Spirit gave the land to all his children. We want to know why you come and where you are going. All who have hair on their chins are rich; we have clean chins, and are poor. I am telling no lies. We had horses and land on the other side, but the Yankees lied to us. They gave us drink and killed us, and took our lands away. The Sioux wished to keep quiet, but the Yankees wronged them, drove them away with their big guns. England never did that to her red children. What now is wanted? We have nothing to kill the buffalo with; we want guns and ammunition; we can get nothing without arms; nothing to use against the Yankees when we go against them. They will kill us. We heard you were coming, a big man. I will get all my children to help you where you go." After this there was again a shaking of hands, and Lieut.-Col. French answered.

"My Brothers wish to know why we come this way. I will tell you. The white mother who lives beyond the great waters sent me. She heard the Yankees came to kill you and give you bad whiskey. The white mother has white children, red children, and black children. She loves them all alike. She sent these braves to punish those that kill them. (How, how.) We have been travelling in this direction for three moons, and will go on for the space of another moon. (How.) We want to capture those who killed the white mother's red children. (How.) We do not want the land of the Dakota nor any one else's. (How, how.) We have guns only for our warriors, but will give you ammunition, calico and tea."

The presents were then brought in, with a little flour and flints added. After a while a stalwart warrior belonging to another band, came forward and made the following speech: "All our bravest men are dead. We are now without friends. Long ago my chief said that we would see red warriors to defend us; now I believe what he said. I never saw men like this before, and I am glad to see them, and will give them good names and will try to be kind for ever. Give us ammunition and we will assist you. Now we have nothing. We want bullets. One of our Chief's sons died last year: he told us to keep to this country. I have done so, and am glad that I did. We heard long ago of your coming. We said we would wait and meet you. Perhaps you would give us ammunition and arms. Any way, I am glad to see you. If you want me, I will do all I can for you. I am not a chief, but like to say a few words. I am like a child. I cannot speak well."

Here ended the pow-wow. A few rounds of the pipe, shaking of hands, and they were off to their camp.

On the 14th, the day after the conference, we had an Indian dance. It was rather a queer exhibition. The men and women stood in a circle and sang some heroic exploits of their tribe. Then they hopped up and down in time, moving slowly from right to left. There was nothing to amuse or admire in it. We looked on, of course, and applauded, which pleased the performers a good deal. But the effect of our courtesy was lost, however, when some of our men took it into their heads to get up an opposition dance, for the purpose of showing what they could do. The Indians gazed stoically a while, then got disgusted and left.

For the fellow who has fed his mind with Cooper, Schoolcraft, Lengfellow and other poets or novelists, the sight of the Indian himself is a terrible disappointment. In vain do you look for the type of a Pontiac or an Uncas. Still less are you blessed to behold a Pocahontas or a Minnehaha. The men are dirty and ugly, low-browed, dull-eyed, and brutish in appearance. The women, even the budding girls, have not a single feminine grace. The man must be hard up, indeed, who takes such to wife. And still, like their sisters the world over, these women put on airs. They have a certain grotesque coquetry about them. They cast sheep's-eyes at you, and squint to see whether you are admiring them. If they catch you laughing at them, as

is generally the case, their black eyes flash fire of indignation, and they strut away with just an approach to offended dignity.

BACON'S POETRY.

A writer in the April number of *Scribner's* says: "According to the editors of Bacon's Works, the only verses of Bacon's making that have come down to us, and probably, with one or two slight exceptions, the only verses he ever attempted, were the translation of certain Psalms into English verses." He wrote also a sonnet, meant, say the editors, "some way or other to assist in sweetening the Queen's temper toward the Earl of Essex; and it has either not been preserved at all, or not so as to be identified." Two other poems have been ascribed to him, although it is not absolutely certain that he wrote them. Really, then, the seven versified Psalms constitute all of Bacon's poetry which may be said to be in evidence on the point of his poetic ability. On the whole, we find Bacon's "translations" more agreeable reading than Milton's, which is accounted for in the fact that Milton aimed at a more literal version than did Sir Francis in most of the latter's "translations." Though, if any one should strangely doubt Milton's ability to surpass Bacon at the work of recasting, and he cared to do so, no better evidence of his power would be needed than his fifteen-years-old paraphrase on Psalm cxiv. For the curiosity of the thing, we transcribe the opening stanzas of Bacon's translation of Psalm cxxxvii:

"When as we sat all sad and desolate,
By Babylon upon the river's side,
Eas'd from the tasks which in our captive state
We were enforced daily to abide,
Our harps we had brought with us to the field,
Some solace to our heavy souls to yield.

"But soon we found we fail'd of our account,
For when our minds some freedom did obtain,
Straightways the memory of Zion Mount
Did cause afresh our wounds to bleed again;
So that with present griefs, and future fears,
Our eyes burst forth into a stream of tears.

"As for our harps, since sorrow struck them dumb,
We hang'd them on the willow-trees where near:
Yet did our cruel masters to us come,
Asking of us some Hebrew songs to hear:
Tantuning us rather in our misery,
Than much delighting in our melody."

There is pathos here, and sufficient mastery of rhythm. A little farther on comes a line, so well managed in its rough and rapid irregularity, as to suggest the careful manner of our modern versifiers:

"Remember thou, O Lord, the cruel cry
Of Edom's children, which did ring and round,
Inciting the Chaldean's cruelty,
Down with it, down with it, even unto the ground."

In Psalm xc., we find a stanza with a touch not altogether un-Shakespearean:

"Thou carriest man away as with a tide:
Then down swim all his thoughts that mounted high:
Much like a mocking dream, that will not hide,
But flies before the sight of waking eye:
Or as the grass, that cannot term obtain,
To see the summer come about again."

Psalm civ. affords an example of the heroic couplet. We quote the first lines:

"Father and King of powers, both high and low,
Whose sounding fame all creatures serve to blow,
My soul shall with the rest strike up thy praise,
And Carol of thy works and wondrous ways,
But who can blaze thy beauties, Lord, aright?
They turn the brittle beams of mortal sight:
Upon thy head thou wear'st a glorious crown,
All set with virtues, polish'd with renown:
Thence round about a silver veil doth fall
Of crystal light, mother of colours all,
The compass heaven, smooth without grain or fold,
All set with spangles of glittering stars untold,
And stri'd with golden beams of power unpeep,
Is rais'd up for a removing tent,
Vaulted and arch'd are his chamber beams
Upon the seas, the waters, and the streams:
The clouds as chariots swift do scour the sky:
And stormy winds upon their wings do fly."

Certainly there is in Bacon's verse no such strong proof against the Baconian authorship of the Shakespeare Plays, as is generally imagined. (One has the feeling, however, that this is work that Shakespeare would not be about; although in discussing this whole question, there is such a perplexing interplay of identities that mere feelings are hardly to be considered. Either that, or else they are the only things to be considered, in which case the world will forever go on feeling and believing that Bacon is not Shakespeare. The poets, at least, will never be brought to believe that Shakespeare "could not do it.")

By the way, why should not Milton's witness to Shakespeare have more force than is generally given it, as the testimony, if not of an acquaintance, at least of a contemporary. Contemporaries they were for eight years; there was no better informed literary man in England than Milton; certainly none better qualified to judge of a question involving his own art. If there had been any suspicion of incongruity between the man Shakespeare and the poet Shakespeare would not some shadow of it have come over Milton's mind? But no—the author of "Hamlet" had been dead only fourteen years when Milton calls him:

"Dear son of memory, great heir of fame,"

And how well he understood the peculiar quality of Shakespeare's genius:

"* * * to the shame of slow, endeavouring art,
Thy easy numbers flow."

"Or sweetest Shakespeare, Fancy's child,
Warble his native wood-notes wild."