

degenerate into a mere system of rewarding active service in the ranks of a political party, and therefore the selection should be made in some other way. Assuming that the life tenures of all the present members are secured, there does not seem to be any good reason why the Senate should not, within the next few months, initiate and carry through a measure which, with the sanction of the Imperial Parliament, would greatly improve the constitution of the Dominion Parliament.

Gold Mining in
Ontario.

What we said two weeks ago on the likelihood of the Lake of the Woods district as an important gold field is being well borne out by late news from that quarter. A despatch in last Saturday's *Globe* gives interesting information on one of the mines recently opened there by an English company, the Mikado. This property was purchased in August for \$25,000, and before deciding to place a mill upon it the company wisely proposed to have a test of the ore made at one of the mills in the locality—the nearest being at Rat Portage, 35 miles away, but easily reached by water communication. The first lot of ore from the Mikado consisted of 114 tons, and it yielded from the plates 417 ounces of gold, valued at \$7,000, while it is stated that about thirty-five per cent. additional of the assay value is in the concentrates. A second run of 25 tons gave still better results, the yield of free gold being over \$2,500, with concentrates equally as rich in proportion as those from the previous lot. It is estimated that the total yield in bullion from the 139 tons will be not less than \$15,000, or three-fifths of the whole cost of the mine; and there does not appear to be any reason to doubt that these runs were made upon ore of average quality. The *Globe* correspondent who sent the despatch stayed off at Rat Portage upon his way back from the British Columbia mines and he says: "Remarkable as have been the results from Le Roi and War Eagle and other properties of Rosslund, they have been nothing to compare with the astounding results of the Mikado ore."

Do We Need a
Minister of Mines?

The Sultana gold mine with its \$1,000,000 of ore in sight, and the Mikado with ore yielding \$100 to \$150 per ton, two-thirds of which is free milling, can hardly fail to produce an effect upon enterprising men in Ontario with capital at their command, and it would be surprising if they allowed all the opportunities for investment to be taken up by Englishmen and Americans. It is results such as these which now reach us that will stir the home capitalist into activity; and while Governments may largely assist by procuring and publishing information of reliable character, there is nothing so helpful in building up a mining industry in our country as a demonstration that we possess minerals in plenty and that good profits are to be made in working them. A member of the Local Legislature, we observe, ventures to depreciate the work done by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines, and to say that the only hope of good service being done lies in the creation of a Department of Mines, both for the Dominion and the Province. When a statement of this sort is made it ought to be accompanied with some substantial reason, especially in a country that is believed by many to be already overloaded with Departments. What could a Minister of Mines do that cannot be done as well by the present organization? And what is the sense of appointing another ornamental head of a Department if the real work had to be done under him, as it is being done now by a deputy and his staff?

Two Classes of
Public Servants.

In a recent speech Lord Salisbury said: "The servants of the public in England are divided into two sections; one section—the most conspicuous and in some cases the most famous—are those who distinguish themselves by the volubility and quality of their speaking. These are the public servants who live by talk and serve by talk. There is another class of public servants who talk little, but act much. Those great public servants are the permanent servants of the Crown, and if you wish to ask what their merits are you have only to see how the English Empire has thriven and advanced and flourished during the course of the splendid reign under which we now live." But for all this it is the public servants who live by talk and serve by talk that in England and Canada receive the applause for good work done and draw the large salaries as well. The permanent servants of the Crown are very rarely heard of in public, although they do the solid work, and any proposal to raise their salaries is pretty sure to raise a public storm.

Permanent Servants
as Political Workers.

It is right and proper that the permanent servants of the Crown should not come conspicuously into notice, saving as they may in the discharge of their duties. Any who do so as political workers outside of their official service must by that act give offence to a large portion of the people whose paid servants they are, and it goes without saying that the work must be neglected for which they are being paid out of the public treasury. We have no sympathy with the view that civil servants may take an active and offensive part in political elections as long as it is understood that they are prepared to stand or fall with their friends; neither do we think it is expedient or in the public interest that an officer of a Provincial Government should take an active public interest in a Federal election, or vice versa. Much has recently been said in the House of Commons upon this subject, and those who do not know the facts might infer that the practice was very general. We do not believe that any large number of the inside service at Ottawa exhibited themselves as offensive partisans in the elections, and we know that not more than three or four of those in the service of the Local Government at Toronto did so, although as servants of a Government not directly interested they might feel more free to take part. We can say, too, that they are far from being the most useful members of that service; their heart is not in their work, and they are probably looking for higher reward in another quarter. Yet their conduct and actions create the suspicion that the whole civil service is employed like themselves during election campaigns, and so the great majority come to suffer in reputation from the behaviour of a meddlesome few. In the interest of the public service it is not desirable that such a character should be given to the men employed in it, and at Toronto, as well as at Ottawa, Government officials should be made to keep their hands off politics.

Target
Fatalities.

The death of the young man who was accidentally killed while acting as a marker during target practice at the Niagara camp is a very sad occurrence. It is some satisfaction to note the alertness and thoroughness with which the military authorities have acted in the endeavour to make a recurrence of such an event practically impossible. Having experimented carefully with the new rifle and found that its power to project a bullet is very much greater than that of the one in use when the targets were erected, they materially increased the strength of the marker's defence against stray