

also "has arisen a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph." At present it is hard to see what the end will be, but it is to be hoped it may justify the innovation. An old writer says, "As the births of living creatures are at first ill-shapen, so all are innovations, which are the births of time." This is certainly the way very many people in and out of the Civil Service, look at the present and wish the powers that be had taken the same author's advice." It were good, therefore, that men in their innovations would follow the example of time itself, which, indeed, innovate'h greatly, but quietly, and by degrees scarce to be perceived.

CONCERNING PRIVILEGES.

"It is true that what is settled by custom, though it be not good, yet at least it is fit," so said a man endowed with one of the rarest intellects, whilst at the same time, and in the one essay he condemns a "froward retention of custom." The members of the Civil Service are now and have been complaining of the abolition of many privileges which, if "not good" were at least fit.

Years ago each member of the service was allowed a private and adequate supply of stationery, in addition to his salary. That was suddenly curtailed, then abolished, and no quid pro quo given. The customary knife was then attacked, and that too was taken away. Lastly the comparatively small privilege of being allowed to "frank" his own, and his family's private letters was ruthlessly withdrawn, and again though this had been counted as something outside of salary no equivalent was rendered to the sufferer. These all seem to be causes of complaint, but there are even more serious inflictions behind. In many Departments the old lunch hour has been taken away, and the time book introduced. This time book with its despotic removal, and the close watch it keeps on the incoming and outgoing of the employees is viewed in many quarters as an espionage unworthy of the Government of a great country. It is to be hoped that when the report of the late Civil Service Commissioners has been thoroughly digested some concessions will be made to the ladies and gentlemen forming the service, and whose privileges have been so curtailed.

ON ESPRIT DE CORPS.

One of the greatest requisites for the prosperity and well being of any body of men is that species of friendship known as "Esprit de Corps." Without this the greatest victories would never have been won, and some of the most noble deeds would never have been recorded. Without it, too, no large body of men ever work harmoniously, or accomplish any great work for the benefit of the whole body. The statement that "a house divided against itself cannot stand" is as true in every great service now as it ever was. In military circles whilst there is a special talismanic influence in the words "Oh, he is one of ours" there is a scarcely lesser strength in the words, "He is in the service." The same feeling exists amongst naval services, on the bench, and at the bar, whilst among medical practitioners it has sometimes been thought that it has been carried to an excess. Amongst Freemasons, Oddfellows and other kindred societies it prompts members to cover up one

another's follies, and often to unite to screen some almost shipwrecked brother. Sad to relate, this spirit is almost entirely lacking amongst the members of the Dominion Civil Service, and very probably is so amongst the Provincial Civil Services. Amongst the several departments in many cases some members of one department hardly recognize or speak to members of the same department, and do not know half a dozen men in the service outside of their own department or branch. If they saw a member of another, or even their own department, in trouble or distress, they would not assist him out of the scrape, but pass him by, merely saying, "It is none of my funeral." Unfortunately, too, the mantle of charity is not always thrown over the shortcomings of a fellow clerk. The principle of "put yourself in his place" is not universally acted on, but oftentimes a stronger glare of light is thrown on the weak spot, and the deformity or irregularity made more apparent. This cannot but be detrimental to the best interests of the service, and is much regretted by many members of every department. A more general intercourse, a freer intermingling would lead naturally to a discussion of matters interesting to the service. The different methods of conducting the business of the departments would become more familiar to all, and from the more diffused knowledge would doubtless arise many valuable suggestions. This would not be the only good result, it would lead to better feeling throughout the whole service, to greater unity amongst the employees, and, as the Belgian motto says, "L'union fait la force." How this much to be desired end is to be brought about remains with the members of the service themselves. Their attention is now drawn to it, and any suggestions will be thankfully received.

MR. JUSTICE SEDGEWICK.

The elevation of Mr. Robert Sedgewick from being deputy minister of justice to the bench of the Supreme Court will be hailed throughout the country as an appointment which commends itself to the general public. Mr. Justice Sedgewick like Mr. Justice Burbridge, has occupied a most responsible position with the greatest éclat, and will add lustre to the bench of the Dominion.

Speaking of this appointment the *Citizen* says. It is probable that Mr. Robert Sedgewick, Q. C., Deputy Minister of Justice, will be appointed to-day to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court of Canada caused by the death of Chief Justice Kitchie. Mr. Sedgewick is a young man for so high a place, being only forty-five in May next, but the choice of him is justified by his successful professional career. Called to the bar of Ontario in 1872, he was subsequently admitted in Nova Scotia where he continued to practice until his appointment as deputy minister of Justice in 1888. He was for some time vice-president of the Barristers' Society in Nova Scotia, a governor of Dalhousie College and lecturer on equity in the Dalhousie School of Law. He was elected an alderman for the City of Halifax, and subsequently recorder of the city. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the House of Assembly for Halifax city and county in 1874; but subsequently he took no very active part in politics. In the department of Justice Mr. Sedgewick has shown a splendid capacity for work and a

mastery of legal principle which marked him out as a fit man for a high judicial position. His genial disposition and unaffected good sense have made him a universal favourite, and his good fortune has been the subject of hosts of congratulatory letters and telegrams. Judge Sedgewick will commence his duties at the sittings of court to-morrow.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Through unforeseen circumstances, the first number of the Civil Service Review which was announced for last spring has been delayed for nearly twelve months. Whilst we apologise to those who have expectantly awaited the appearance of this journal, we venture to express our warm hope that the reality now presented with "bigger expectation."

Judge Mosgrove, when administering justice in the Division Court, is in the habit of dealing with very great severity with Civil Servants who come before him. His judgments at a recent court were severely criticized, but they should not have been. His Honor is simply acting up to the principle that he laid down at the very first Court at which he presided after his elevation to the bench. At that Court he spoke with no uncertain sound, and evidently had fully made up his mind.

Throughout the various branches of the service there is a general tone of condemnation of Hon. John Costigan's new Civil Service Act. Men who have done their duty steadily and well feel naturally annoyed at certain clauses of this obnoxious measure. Unfortunately, as the rain falls on the just as well as the unjust, so the upright and honorable have to be placed under the same rules and regulations as the few men who render these severe clauses necessary by their irregularities.

Major General Herbert has the courage of his convictions, and carries them out in his last report as far as he is concerned. It is unfortunate that some of his expressions of opinion should have been made the subject of a party in the House of Commons, and it is still more regrettable that in the defence an attack on the departmental administration should have been made. It is not always the wisest and most unanswerable argument that can be adduced in the defence of a department that Imperial precedent has been followed. That such a precedent is in many cases good is true, but there are still some remnants of the circumlocution office to be found, and some members of the Tite Barnacle family existing. The most regrettable results of following old precedents which added to the sufferings of the British troops in the Crimea are still remembered, as also the more recent blunders which sent a British regiment to one part of Egypt and their arms and ammunition to another. The story of Prince Bull and his fairy godmother, who was always saying Tape, still has too much justification in truth. Another very regrettable fact in this relationship exists in the attempt to make a departmental official solely responsible for the system of contracts, etc., which has been pursued. This probably did not do much harm, but it is of itself an unwise precedent. If the militia of Canada are worth keeping, they are certainly worth maintaining in the highest state of efficiency.