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THE CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Services in Canada.

Per Vias Rectas.

VOL. I.—NO. I.

OTTAWA, MARCH 1, 1893.

Subscription, \$1.00 per annum.
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The CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW is printed and published for the Civil Service Review Company, by Frynter & Company, at their offices, 48 Rideau Street, Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, Ontario.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Ordinary show advertisements are charged at the rate of eight cents a line for the first insertion, and four cents a line for each subsequent insertion. Special rates and prices will be made for space advertisements extending over lengthened periods. Special terms will also be given for professional cards published in classified order. A special exchange column will be opened, for bona fide offers, at 10 cents a line for each insertion.

Births, Marriages and Death notices will be charged 50 cents each. No Funeral notices will be published under this head, as the paper is of fortnightly issue.

Preliminary Prospectus of the "Canadian Civil Service Review," submitted for information and in the hope of obtaining sympathy with the object indicated, and approval of the general lines of the scheme.

Following the lead of the Civil Service in England, it is in contemplation to establish at Ottawa a special organ, through which matters affecting the Civil Service of Canada, both Dominion and Provincial, can be discussed and represented. It is thought that the present time is peculiarly opportune for such establishment.

The general lines of the scheme are the following:—

1. Its attitude will be absolutely non-political, impartial, and free from any national or religious bias.
2. All subjects affecting either the inside or outside service will be treated with truth, fairness and discretion, and with reference purely to the principles they may involve.
3. It will at all times be borne in mind that the Civil Service is, to a great extent, the executive of the Government of the day, and it is hoped that this spirit will be met by corresponding consideration; thus tending to sympathetic and harmonious working, and to mutual respect. In this regard co-operation, not antagonism, is the object in view.
4. It will not furnish general news, nor deal with general questions.
5. Its characteristics will be courtesy in appeal, moderation in argument, reasonableness in request.
6. The issue will be fortnightly, and the subscription one dollar a year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The aim of this REVIEW is to be of real value to all members and every department of the Canadian Civil Service. Correspondence, accompanied by the name of the writer, on any subject of general or special interest is therefore invited. It is not our aim to be the vehicle for airing personal wrongs or grudges, nor will letters of that character be at any time admitted. The REVIEW is ambitious, and in order to achieve success, the most severe abstinence from personalities and partizanship will be enforced. All letters should be addressed

Editor,

CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW,
48 Rideau st., Ottawa, Ont.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

Members of either the inside or outside service are invited to submit papers on matters of interest either to their own branch particularly or to the service generally. The same censorship will be applied to such papers as to the correspondence. Postage on all communications must be prepaid, and contributors wishing rejected manuscripts to be returned must enclose stamps for that purpose. Contributions should be in the office by the 10th or 25th of each month.

OU "RAISON D'ETRE."

One of the outcomes of the revelations and enquiries of the Session of the Dominion Parliament of 1891, is this CIVIL SERVICE REVIEW, an organ intended not to be in any way partial or political, but free from bias of party, race, creed, or nationality. As far as our scope extends, "Her Majesty's Government," and the "Loyal Opposition," will be unknown; St. George's, St. Patrick's, St. David's, St. Andrew's, St. Jean Baptiste, and even All Saints' day will be ignored, and Dominion Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, honored by all sorts and conditions of men within the broad acres of this great Dominion, alone will be observed.

This Review is intended to be, following the example of the Civil Service organ in England, a special magazine through which matters of interest concerning the Civil Service of Canada, or more correctly speaking the Civil Services of Canada, for it is our intention to include both the Dominion and Provincial, as well as the inside

and outside services, can be discussed and represented. The dire necessity of an organ, controlled by the members of the Civil Service, and representing them, as they see themselves, and not as men desirous of injuring political adversaries and making party ammunition to be used in the then approaching by-elections; was clearly shewn last year, when officer after officer was being examined before the Civil Service Commission, and bespattered with mud by newspapers of all sorts, for having acted only up to the code of honor and light of tradition in the service.

Our columns will ever be open to communications affecting either the inside or the outside service, as long as the writers treat their subjects with truth, fairness and discretion, and refer purely to the principles involved.

Correspondents must remember that the Civil Service is to a great extent the executive of the Government of the day, and we hope that they will bear this in mind, so helping us to sympathetic and harmonious working and mutual respect.

Our motto, "Per vias rectas," will be strictly lived up to. Our object is to assist and defend the Civil Service, to enable men of experience in Her Majesty's Service to point out how and where it may be improved and its usefulness extended. Having this in view, co-operation, not antagonism, is to be desired, together with courtesy in appeal, moderation in argument and reasonableness in request.

RECENT CHANGES.

"A man ought warily to begin changes which once begun, will continue." This quotation from Bacon is at the present time finding hearty endorsement in many branches of the Civil Service. Within the last few weeks many men, who for years have honorably performed the duties assigned to them in the various Departments, have been discharged. No crime was laid to their door, except that they had not passed an examination, many of them were never asked to pass. They were simply told that their services were not wanted, and sent adrift, in many cases their wives, families, and themselves being left to the tender mercies of one of the severest winters on record.

Many of them might quote the words

"Blow, blow thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind,
As man's ingratitude."

were they not placed in the Departments as extra clerks in recognition of political services? but to them

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's 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 apologize 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.

Civil Service Insurance.

The old system of Civil Service insurance has been found so unsatisfactory that Hon. G. S. Foster has on February 3rd., introduced a new measure to supersede it. The following is the report of the Proceedings in the House when the Finance Minister introduced the Bill:—

Mr. FOSTER moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 11) respecting Government Civil Service insurance. He said: This Bill is introduced and is to be considered in connection with another Bill of which I gave notice, to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act, the design being to secure for civil servants the advantages of superannuation, that is, an allowance to servants who have spent their term of service in the employment of the Government and who have reached an age when it is proper they should be retired for the remainder of the term they may have to live; and, in conjunction with that, the Civil Service Insurance Bill, which I am now introducing, is to make provision, for which there has always been felt a lack, for the surviving members of the family of a civil servant. A civil servant comes into the department, pays his superannuation for a term of twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years, and it may happen that about the time he is to be retired, or very shortly after he has retired, he is taken away by death. His family receives nothing. This is, as I have said, to prevent that hardship, and to provide for civil servants an inexpensive method by which they may have, under Government auspices, a provision, not very large, it is true, but yet something substantial, for the members of the family when they are taken away by death. The existing Superannuation Act, under which we are now governed, has proved itself to be an expensive one, due largely to two circumstances; one, the overloading of the Civil Service superannuation list—

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman will wait a little, he will find he was a little too previous. One circumstance, as I have said, was the overloading of the superannuation list by old servants in the employ of the Government at the time the Civil Service Superannuation Bill was enacted into law, numbers of whom having served for long periods of years, were by that Act placed upon the Civil Service superannuation list, entitled to all the benefits of superannuation, although they had paid in all cases not very much, in some cases actually nothing, into the Civil Service superannuation fund. It was overloaded, therefore, by its own provisions at its very start and commencement. Another reason why it has proved burdensome arose from the fact that the abatement made at the time the Act went into force, none too high and probably not high enough to carry the system, was afterwards lowered, so that the rate of abatement at the present time, and since that lowering, has been altogether inadequate to any fair support of the Act. The amendment to the Civil Service Superannuation Bill, which will be introduced directly, provides that for civil servants entering the service after the date of the passing of the Act, a larger rate of abatement shall be made for superannuation purposes, and in connection with those servants the provisions of this Civil Service Insurance Bill are to be applied. One objection which has been felt very strongly by the House to the system of providing for civil servants is, that we never knew the end of it; that there seemed to be no definiteness as to what would be the working out, and as year after year has passed we have found that the receipts and expenditures on superannuation have been growing wider and wider apart, until to-day it has become burdensome on the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The two acts which are to be introduced, one of which I am introducing now, will have this advantage: that from the very start Parliament will be able to see just about the limit of its liabilities. The two put together will not be quite self-sustaining; but the limit of each, which will be the Government's

contribution towards the sustenance of the two, will be a very moderate limit, and one the maximum of which can be fairly estimated, and may be known from the beginning.

Mr. DAVIS (P.E.I.) Do you increase the abatement payment on those who are paying to the superannuation fund now?

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. DAVIS (P.E.I.) Do you extend to them the benefits under them?

Mr. FOSTER. No; except that there is this provision that any person who belongs to the Civil Service at present, and who contributes to the present abatement, may take advantage of the Government Civil Service insurance, provided he pays an increased abatement. That is merely to leave it open for present members, if they choose, to avail themselves of it in that respect.

Mr. DAVIS (P.E.I.) What class would be required to pay the higher abatement from this date?

Mr. FOSTER. All who enter the Civil Service from this date. The benefit of the insurance will, of course, be felt in this way: it is given on a very much reduced rate to what the standard companies can offer, and that for two reasons; one, the Government does not propose to pay any of the expenses of the administration, and the other reason is that the Government proposes to give a small contribution towards the fund in the way of interest upon the investment of the moneys that come in as premiums upon the policies. It is calculated that when under this Act the new Civil Service, as far as superannuation is concerned, shall have reached the maximum of the present Civil Service in number of employees and salaries given: the amount of insurance will probably run at the maximum of about \$4,000,000. When that time is reached the contribution by the Government each year will attain its maximum amount of \$13,000 per year. Of course, for a number of years, that amount will not be reached, and consequently the contribution of the Government will commence at a minimum sum and will go gradually up until in about 20 or 25 years, it will reach the maximum contribution of \$13,000 a year. I may say that when the new superannuation scheme has got fully into force in about 20 or 25 years, and comes up to the maximum of the service as it at present exists; the contribution from the Government towards its sustenance will be in the vicinity of about \$5,000. If I remember right, making for both systems a maximum contribution by the Government each year of not more than \$20,000 or \$21,000.

Motion agreed to, and bill read the first time.

Severe Criticism.

The editorial column of the *Ottawa Evening Journal* on Tuesday, February 21st, is given up to an "open letter addressed to a member of Parliament" which contains some very plain speaking indeed. The truth is told in many of its paragraphs, but unfortunately it will probably lose some of its force from having been told by some one writing under an assumed name.

The first two paragraphs are as follows:—I am aware that when you glance down the lines of this document you may feel inclined to cast it into the darkness of your waste paper basket, but I ask you not to be so hasty. The matter to which I demand your attention, affects an influential and trustworthy body of men and as you are pledged to justice by your presence in the House of Commons, I ask you for what you cannot refuse and be at the same time true to your position.

You will shortly be asked to concur in the second reading of a bill relating to the Civil Service of Canada brought down by the Hon. the Secretary of State and as it does not appeal directly to your self interest you might be inclined to pass the question by as unimportant. By

doing so you would permit a grave injustice to be done, an injustice of which you will never see the result and for which, therefore, you will consider yourself irresponsible. I am aware of the idea which the popular fancy had made current and which pictures the Civil Servant as a man well dressed to foppishness, the centre of whose universe is Rideau Hall, who makes a slow progress to his comfortable office at ten in the morning and reads the paper and yawns until it is time for luncheon, and then repeats this well practiced task in the afternoon until four o'clock releases him to his duty calls and the real business of his life at the five o'clock teas. But did you ever think that the popular idea was fallacious; just as fallacious as that equally popular one, that all lawyers are liars, all doctors, quacks, and all merchants rogues? Did it ever strike you that you know nothing about the Civil Service and that you are as far from the truth after you have read the report of the last Civil Service commission as you were before? That commission was a farce; it was conceived in a moment of political nervousness. It never deceived any one that had an eye clear enough to pierce its real under its ostensible purpose. Any person who saw the ridiculous spectacle of the inspection of the department by the members of the commission, even if he had had the most childlike faith in the wisdom which called the body into life could not have restrained a shout of Homeric laughter.

The writer, "Silas Reading," goes on to develop the spirit that "the Service must be crushed" which he says is abroad, and even entertained by some M. P.'s. He points out that lawyers and bank clerks may hope for brilliant futures, but over the portal of admission to the Departmental Service should be inscribed Dante's motto for the entry to the Inferno—"All hope abandon ye who enter here."

He then continues.—"You smile; but did you ever reflect that the majority of the Service is composed of men who can never earn more than one thousand dollars a year and only attain that salary after twelve years' work, and do you know what it is to keep a family in Ottawa on a salary slowly increasing from four hundred to one thousand dollars? I hear you say: "No man should marry on too small a salary." But my dear sir we are all men and the dear delights of home are just as enticing to us as they are to the rest of mankind. I hasten to add that in the Service the whole of a man's salary is not his own; that two per cent of it he never sees and that unless he is in exceptionally favorable circumstances he is never able to embrace the privilege which this deduction extends to him but dies a poor man and leaves the Government in possession of its unjust and wicked gain. But I forget, his widow receives two months of his salary, which is in most cases sufficient to pay his funeral expenses. This iniquitous tax is called superannuation and we are asked to consider it a privilege and to implore a special blessing on the framers of the Insurance Bill which no one can understand, but which has the semblance of benevolence upon it. But why, you ask, should a man abandon hope when he enters the Service? I answer that the chances of his making the best use of his faculties are one in one thousand, that there is absolutely no chance for the development which comes to men in other walks of life, that the never ending routine breeds an apathy of mind, a special disease I might say, which makes a man useless for the other employments of life. You ask for an illustration; you might find it in the case of the helpless extra clerks in the department of railways and canals who were cut adrift in the middle of winter with singular inhumanity. This fact should entitle the civil servant to more than ordinary consideration. The country gives him his pay and what does he give in exchange? his life—literally, for he gives up everything, every chance for a successful career or an energetic progress for the fancied security of such a position. Security! When every Parliament

in a frenzy at his "privileges" has the power to juggle with the Civil Service Act! Any one who has experienced the effect of the present hours upon himself will view with dismay the proposition to lengthen them. What will it mean? It will mean that he will have two hours longer in the ill-ventilated and in some cases dangerously over-heated rooms in which he has to work. I would like to take you into some of the rooms of the new block which are in this state and then ask you to ascend to the top of that building and learn the paternal interest of a Government which provides insufficient air space for its clerks and magnificent chambers for its models of patents. These extra ten hours a week will mean sickness to some and to all ill health and shortened lives. They will make a nervous and discontented service and will lower the standard of the work and increase the staff. I forbear to say what effect it will have upon the women in the service, many of whom are the widows and orphans of old civil servants who received the benefit of two months' salary to bury their dead.

And what will the moral effect be upon men who have been doing loyal and conscientious service for their country, who have worked after hours without ever thinking of extra pay? It will have but one effect, that of discouraging them in their duty. Does anyone imagine for a moment that the staff will decrease or remain stationary? I would ask you ironically, if this be the case what is to become of that "friend" in your constituency to whom you have promised a "place" and from whom you are even now receiving the gentlest of reminders? Canada is a growing country and in twenty-five years the service will have increased in numbers by thirty per cent. But it is with the present we have to deal. And how have the present conditions arisen? Why are there in every part of the service drones and incompetents? You are responsible and you alone. In your anxiety to obtain offices however honorable for your friends you have created this condition and it would not be too sweeping to assert that all the objectionable features in the life of the service to-day have their root in the influence which you wield and which you are never slow to use.

Further on the writer says:

And with peculiar foresight, while the bill provides for longer hours and therefore increases the probability of sickness, it also restricts the provision for sick leave. This is even handed justice with a vengeance!

But I have still to deal with the two farcial elements of the bill which seem to have been thrown in with a sort of grotesque humor in order to vary the monotony of what might otherwise be too saturnine a document. I refer to the "conduct book" and the "supervisor." And one of those humorous clauses provides, with characteristic prudence, a position for one other gentleman who has proved himself worthy of party confidence. Looking the matter fairly in the face I can think of only one being who is at all competent to fill that post and in all likelihood he would not accept the position at the salary offered. I mean the Archangel Michael. He would do excellently well for the part of supervisor of the service and it will require someone of an angelic and just a nature to stand between the deputy minister and the Government; for his recommendations would tend to show incompetence in either; he would be between the devil and the deep sea. But if the above named celestial being or anyone else equally competent should be prevailed upon to take the "place" how the service would welcome him! Here at last might be a chance of getting some credit for conscientious work and manly intention. But I might easily dwell too seriously upon the equipment which such an official must have; you have no doubt already applied for the position and may get it if you have a constituency which is safe to open and if your "friends" rally around you with sufficient clamor.

As for the other farcial clause, the "conduct book,"

it seems to have crept in somehow from a vague remembrance on the part of the framer of the bill that he once had to bring a piece of cardboard home from school upon which his misdeeds were registered, and which sent him to bed with the "surface upon which he sits" glowing and smarting with a just chastisement, and it occurred to him that it might be a good plan to import that principle into the measure he was considering as being of a piece with its puerile character. This is a clause which no one who is in the habit of doing his duty can fear and therefore the service at large need not trouble about it; but it shows the spirit in which the new measure is framed.

There is a way and a very simple one to cure all the disorders of the Civil Service which is held to be in such an alarming state that a medicine so drastic as the new bill must be administered at once. It is merely to strike at the evils where they exist, to dismiss the loafers, to cancel the antiquated and cumbersome methods of transacting public business, to put some trust in the public servants, and if they betray it to let them feel the hand of the law; to make the service as a class, know that its honest efforts are appreciated and that it exists for more reasons than a refuge for political intriguers; to allow promotion to follow merit and not influence; and without pampering to permit the so-called privileges, which are really the only compensations of a life which breeds inability to battle with the world. This is the common sense method. But it is also the method which would do away with political influence and it will therefore be carefully strangled. If it were not thought popular to trifle with Civil Service rights and privileges justice might be done, but unfortunately as I before said that spirit is in the air and no chance of popularity must be overlooked. To bait the Civil Service has come to be a political virtue and so you are asked to insist in bringing into the world a measure conceived in ignorance of the true needs of the service and in prejudice against its best interests. But I ask you to pause and reflect that after all your judgment may not be infallible and that to the consideration of such a complex subject you had better give more than a moment of your time.

The D. R. A.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association took place in the railway committee room of the House of Commons on the forenoon of Tuesday February 21st, Hon. Lieut.-Col. Gibson in the chair.

The annual report of the association was taken and read. It showed increased receipts and prize list.

Lt.-Col. Gibson and Hon. MacKenzie Howell having addressed the meeting, the latter presented a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his valuable contributions and other assistance.

Lord Stanley replied. He said he was more than touched by the kind reference which Mr. Howell had made to himself. He also desired to thank the association for postponing their meeting from last week, thus giving him an opportunity of being present with them. The cloud which then over-hung his family was sufficiently lifted now to permit him to be amongst them to-day.

He referred to the pleasure which it always gave him to associate with them as one of themselves. Since last year there was a change in the head of the militia department, Mr. Howell being translated to another sphere in the public service. Mr. Patterson, although younger in the public service, he had always found anxious and willing to advance the interest of the force. He agreed with a remark of Col. Gibson as to better rifles being required for the force. The Snider was an obsolete weapon. (Hear hear.) He did not believe in waiting much longer and thought that the Martini-Henri would be a suitable weapon for the Canadian militia for many years. The question of ranges, while land was easily to be got,

ought to be considered. That, however, was a matter which belonged to the department more than the association. In conclusion he said that on leaving Canada he would take with him the most pleasant recollections of his intercourse with the association and its members. (Cheers.)

Lt.-Col. Burland moved a vote of thanks to the Minister of Militia.

Hon. J. L. Patterson in accepting the vote said the Dominion Rifle Association and the Dominion Artillery Association were kindred institutions which kept the interests in the militia force alive in Canada. He agreed with what had been said in regard to the Snider rifle and he trusted the Martini would be the weapon used in all future rifle competitions. (Cheers.) He was glad to be able to say that the grant would be continued to the rifle league. (Cheers.) He said it would be his duty to take the advice of the major-general commanding and throw the responsibility on him. (Hear, hear.) Both he and the general were of opinion that it would be better to have a smaller and more efficient force than merely one existing on paper. (Cheers.) Those military men in the Country who got up organizations for the sake of a military career would find their career very shortlived if they did not come up to the necessary standard. (Cheers.) The Militia Department would have been the last department he would have selected for himself, but finding that he was now there he was going to do his duty no matter who he hit. (Cheers.)

Major-General Herbert did not agree with doing away with the Snider rifle at competitions as long as the militia was armed with it. As regards arming the force the general favored not the Martini as it is now but the Martini converted into a small bore weapon like the Lee-Metford without the magazine attachment. The cost of such an arm would be little more than the simple re-arming with the Martini.

Lt.-Col. Gibson was elected president, in place of Lt.-Gov. Kirkpatrick resigned, with compliments from Hon. J. L. Patterson, Hon. Mackenzie Howell and Major-General Herbert. Col. Gibson accepted in a neat little speech and the meeting broke up.

Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick gives a challenge cup to be shot for.

All About The Bill.

The following letter appears in the "Journal" of February 21.

SIR: Your editorial of Saturday night dealt very ably with one point of the new Civil Service Act now before Parliament.

You showed very conclusively that the supervisor of the service of necessity demanded a trained intelligence of a very high order and that the inadequate salary attached to the office rendered it certain that the necessary ability could not be obtained for the sum of \$1,500 per annum. It is therefore fair to presume that, if a weak spot has been found in one portion of the proposed bill, still another point may be touched upon which shows, to say the least, a lack of that judicious treatment to which its importance entitled it.

I refer to the change in the hours of attendance and may be excused if I say that I approach the subject in a spirit of unselfishness.

In the first place any change in the direction of lengthened hours of labor is not in accordance with the spirit of the age. Even where the change would appear to be justified, such a demand is almost universally met by a refusal.

Throughout the civilized world the tendency is towards shorter hours; this, I venture to think, will not be disputed.

In the case of the civil service it is proposed to add

1½ hours to the hours of attendance and to cut off the Saturday half holiday.

This will increase the hours of labour nearly one-third. How is this increase justified? Is it proposed to discharge one-third of the employes or is the work, by some hocus-pocus, to be suddenly increased in proportion to the attendance? I think not; yet only on those grounds can the change be justified.

It will be admitted that in the majority of the departments a sufficient number of clerks are employed to properly perform all the duties; that where a temporary pressure of work has occurred no difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the cheerful consent of the clerks to work extra hours until the pressure had been removed and that in this matter the discipline of the service has been kept up to the proper standard. In the event of the change being brought into effect will not the same amount of work which is now properly performed between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. be spread over the hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.? Will this in any sense of the word increase the efficiency of the staff? Will it not on the other hand have a tendency to destroy the quickness and brightness of the, at present, good clerk and to establish more firmly the laziness of the present drone? This letter is already too long or I might with advantage point to other arguments against the proposed change; with your consent I may perhaps return to the subject.

"ANOTHER CRITIC."

The Elder's Sermon

Our elder told us yesterday we had not learned to live
Until we learned how blessed 'tis to pardon and forgive;
The dear, sweet, precious words he spake like heavenly
 manna fell;

The perfect peace they brought our hearts no human
 words can tell.

"Love brings millennial peace," he said; and though
 my lips were dumb,

I still kept shouting in my soul, "Amen, and let it
 come!"

"When men forgive all other men, the year of jubilee
Will dawn upon the world," he said; and "So let it be."
"So, love your neighbour as yourself," he then began
 again.

And Silas Fitz, across the aisle, he shouted out "Amen!"
What right had he to yell Amen, the low-toned measly
 hound!

Who took my cow, my new milch cow, and locked her
 in the pound?

The low-down, raw-boned, homely crank, a lunk-head
 and a lout.

Whose love and grace and heart and soul have all been
 rusted out,

To sit there in the sanctuary and holler out Amen!
If I could choke that rascal once he'd never shout again!
One day his dog came by my house, I called the brute
 inside.

Gave him a chunk of meat to eat, and he crawled off and
 died.

He just crawled off and died right then: Says I, "I'll
 let him see,

No long-legged simpleton like him can get the best of
 me."

But, oh, that sermon! I would love to hear it preached
 again.

About forgiveness, charity and the love of fellow-men.
I should have felt as if I tasked in heaven's especial
 smile.

If that blamed villain, Silas Fitz, hadn't sat across the
 aisle.

—S. W. Foss, in *Yankee Blade*.

M. T. Trudeau.

The early days of December saw the superannuation of M. T. Trudeau, who, since March 15th, 1864, had been Deputy Minister of the Department of Railways and Canals.

M. Trudeau was born in Montreal, 28th September, 1826, and received his early education at the Montreal College and English schools. He first chose the profession of an architect, and in 1844 began to study for it, but afterwards adopted that of engineering. He was on the engineer's staff during the construction of the railway between Montreal and Lachine, which was completed in the autumn of 1847.

Determined to learn his profession thoroughly, he early in 1848 entered the locomotive shops of Messrs. Rogers, Ketchum and Grosvenor, in Paterson, New Jersey, where for two years he learnt how to wield the tools of all kinds.

Leaving New Jersey he secured employment in the mechanical department of the New York and Erie Railway, and in 1851 and 1852 he occupied a position as Civil Engineer on the railways of Virginia. This was Mr. Trudeau's last work in the United States, and a long list of brilliant services to his own beloved country follow. Here is the list: In 1853-54 he located and commenced the well known line between Richmond and Riviere du Loup. When Mr. A. M. Ross, the first Chief Engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway, came to Canada, as the engineer of the G. T. R., M. Trudeau was sent to accompany him over the several lines surveyed. In 1856-7 Mr. Trudeau acted as Government Commissioner in the matter of the Turnpike roads, and subsequently was appointed arbitrator between the road trust and the contractors. The manner in which M. Trudeau conducted this difficult case, was worthy of his high character for strict probity, and greatly redounded to his credit, fully satisfying all parties.

In 1858 he was appointed Chief Engineer of the North Shore Railway, now C. P. R., between Montreal and Quebec.

The next year perhaps saw M. Trudeau receive his highest honor. He was then sent by Mr. Langevin (now Sir Hector Langevin), Mayor of Quebec, to represent the city in the discussions concerning the railways conducted in England. Returning home that same year, he in December was appointed Secretary of the Department of Public Works.

On March 8th, 1864, he was appointed Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, in succession to the late John Page, who became deputy minister. A week later, March 15th, saw another change. Mr. Page, at his own request, was allowed to return to his former position of chief engineer of Public Works, and M. Trudeau succeeded him again, being appointed deputy minister in his place. When in 1879 a bill was passed dividing the office of Minister of Public Works, and forming a new department, having exclusive control of the Railways and Canals, M. Trudeau became deputy head of the new department, and M. Page chief engineer.

July 2nd, 1890, witnessed the sad and sudden death of Mr. Page in his room in the department, which left the chief engineership vacant, and since that time M. Trudeau has filled both positions.

His superannuation took place in December.

M. Trudeau married in 1855 Mlle. Corinne Perreault, of Montreal.

His successor is Mr. Collingwood Schreiber.

A Cartoon in room No. 16, House of Commons, says Mackenzie Bowell is like an old carpet, because he is full of tax (tacks). A civil servant says the present government is like a ship becalmed, because in their civil service bill they have to tact.

Canada's Prototype.

It may not be generally realized that in the Civil Service at Ottawa we have about as fair a representation of the inhabitants of the Dominion as could be obtained anywhere.

Men representing all the provinces, races, religions and phases of political life, meet here as employes of the Government. Irish, French, Scotch, and English Canadians, fill the different departments, and even Indians are found in the Indian Department. If the Dominion as a whole, is ever to be united in sympathy and single action, it must be by assimilation of all these elements, each working according to its best light, and, at least respecting, what it cannot agree with in the others.

It is only by the united harmony of the whole, composed of such elements, that any modern nation such as ours can attain any true success in nation-building. We must not deny that narrowness and antagonism, whether it be of provincial, race, religious, or other origin, is ruinous to our best future prospects. Men who have lived in one community all their lives, grow to think in a narrow way. They think theirs is the only good, and that all other standards of life are wrong. They become rooted in their prejudices, and can see no good outside of that which they claim for their own. But when they meet under such circumstances as are possible at Ottawa, where Indian and white man, French, Scotch, Irish and English, Catholic and Protestant, work side by side as fellow clerks, they begin to at least respect where they cannot agree. It makes men more tolerant, and hence more human, and in this way, by widening their vision, renders them more capable of working together for the common good. For this reason alone, if for no other, the employes of the Civil Service ought to be of interest to Canadians outside. Instead of looking at them as a degenerate class, the people of the Dominion should regard them as worthy of more study, being the result of bringing the different elements into close contact.

Of course there are cliques and class distinctions everywhere, as well as persons who are unworthy and unresponsive to widening influences. But we think that if any Canadian were to make an impartial study of the different departments of the Civil Service, he would find, that in the main, the employes therein, are much superior, in many ways, to the same grade and stamp of men outside from which they were drawn. Therefore, in conclusion, we would warn Canadians generally, to be careful how they condemn, without true knowledge, a class of men taken out of all parts of the Dominion, and representing all classes, lest in so doing, they bring on contempt on the large mass of the people from which they have been drawn.

The Future Service.

Hon. John Costigan, on February 13th, introduced an act to amend the Civil Service Act. The provisions are given below, and will be found instructive reading. The construction of the Board of Examiners is found to be nearly the same as before. Section 16, regarding the conduct book, is an innovation which will scarcely fail to cause much complaint, and which seems more fitted to a public school than to the service of a growing country. The following is the Bill:—

1. Section three of *The Civil Service Act*, chapter seventeen of the Revised Statutes, is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:

"3. The Civil Service, for the purposes of this Act, includes and consists of all classes of employes, in or under the several departments of the executive government of Canada, and in the office of the Auditor General, included in the schedules A and B to this Act, appointed by the Governor in Council or other competent authority before the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred

and eighty two, or thereafter appointed in the manner provided by the Civil Service Act for the time being in force."

2. Section six of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:

"6. The Governor in Council shall, from time to time, determine the number of officers, chief clerks, clerks, messengers and other employees required for the working of the several departments in each division of the Civil Service."

3. Sub-sections one, two and three of section eight of the said Act, as amended by section one of chapter twelve of the statutes of 1889, are hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:

"8. A Civil Service Board, hereinafter called "the board," shall, from time to time, be appointed by the Governor in Council. They shall examine all candidates for admission to and promotion in the Civil Service, and give certificates of qualification to such persons as are found qualified, according to such regulations as are authorized by the Governor in Council for the guidance of the board.

"2. The board shall consist of three members; one, who shall be a member of the Civil Service, and shall be chairman of the board, at a salary, notwithstanding anything in this Act to the contrary, not exceeding four hundred dollars per annum; one other member at the same salary; and one, not previously a member of the Civil Service, who shall be secretary to the board, and Supervisor of the Civil Service, at a salary on appointment of not less than fifteen hundred dollars per annum, with an annual increase of fifty dollars up to a maximum of two thousand dollars, who shall not be subject to the provisions of this Act as to qualifications, and whose tenure of office shall be the same as that of a deputy-head."

4. The said Act is hereby further amended by adding the following section thereto immediately after section nine:

"9. The Supervisor of the Civil Service, hereinafter called the Supervisor, shall be under the direction and control of the Governor in Council, and his duties shall be as follows:

"(a.) He shall, as heretofore stated, be secretary to the board;

"(b.) He shall have general supervision of the inside division of the service, with constant and ready access to all rooms and buildings in which clerks are employed;

"(c.) He shall report, at such time and in such manner and form as the Governor in Council directs, upon the said division generally, and specially upon its condition, requirements and practical working;

"(d.) He shall, whenever directed to do so by the Governor in Council, examine into and report upon the practical working of any part of the outside division of the service;

"(e.) He shall perform such other duties of a like nature as are assigned to him by the Governor in Council.

"2. No clerkship, or office of messenger, packer or sorter shall be created by Order in Council except upon the report of the deputy-head setting forth the necessity therefor, accompanied by a report of the Supervisor, expressing his opinion as to the necessity for such clerkship or office."

5. The paragraph lettered (b) of section ten of the said Act, is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"(b.) No person shall be appointed to any place in the inside division, other than that of a deputy-head, on probation or otherwise, who has not attained the full age of sixteen years, or whose age exceeds thirty-five years;

"(c.) No person shall be appointed to any clerkship in the outside division, on probation or otherwise, who has not attained the full age of sixteen years, or whose age exceeds forty years.

6. Section twenty-four of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"24. The salary of a clerk on appointment or promotion to any class, shall begin at the minimum of such class, except in the case of third class clerks, who may receive, in addition, fifty dollars for each optional subject in which they have passed before their appointment, and proficiency in which is required for the performance of their ordinary duties in the department to which they are appointed, and except in the case of lower grade permanent employees, who, upon passing the qualifying examination, may be appointed third class clerks, at the salary they were receiving at the time of such appointment, when such salary exceeds four hundred dollars.

"2. The optional subjects in the next preceding subsection mentioned shall be:—

"(a) Type-writing;

"(b.) English and French, composition and translation.

7. Section twenty-six of the said Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsection thereto:—

"3. No officer, clerk or employee shall be considered deserving of such increase unless he has received seventy-five per cent of the maximum number of points obtainable for attendance and conduct, as shown by the attendance and conduct books hereinafter mentioned."

8. Section twenty-nine of the said Act is hereby amended by striking out the words "temporary copyists" in the sixteenth line and substituting therefor the word "writers."

9. Section thirty of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"30. No person shall be admitted either to the preliminary or qualifying examination until he has satisfied the board:—

"(a.) That at the time appointed for such examination he will be of the full age of sixteen years, and that if the examination is for a place in the inside division that his age will not then exceed thirty-five years, or if for a clerkship in the outside division that his age will not then exceed forty years;

"(b.) That he is free from any physical defect or disease which would be likely to interfere with the proper discharge of his duties;

"(c.) That his character is such as to qualify him for employment in the service."

10. Subsection one of section thirty-six of the said Act is hereby amended by striking out the words "one year" in the second line and substituting therefor the words "six months."

11. The paragraphs lettered (a) and (b) of section thirty-seven of the said Act are hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"(a.) That the qualifications requisite for office or employment are wholly or in part professional or technical, the report being accompanied by a statement from the head of the branch in which the vacancy occurs, specifying the nature of such professional or technical work;

"(b.) That, to his knowledge, the requisite qualifications are not possessed by any person then in the service of that department; and"

12. Section forty-two of the said Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsection thereto:—

"2. With reference to previous conduct in the service, the record of the attendance and conduct books shall be taken into account and assigned such value as is previously determined by the board and approved by the Governor in Council."

13. Subsections one and three of section forty-seven of the said Act, as amended by section eleven of chapter twelve of the Statutes of 1888, are hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"47. When, from a temporary pressure of work or from any other cause, the assistance of temporary clerks becomes necessary in any branch of the inside or outside division, the head of the department may—if he is satis-

fied that such necessity exists—on the requisition of the deputy-head of the department accompanied by the requisition of the head of the branch in which such assistance is required, select from the lists of persons who have passed the qualifying examination or who are qualified as writers, and for whom no vacancies have up to that time been found, such number of temporary clerks as are required.

"3. The temporary and supernumerary clerks so employed shall be paid only out of money voted by Parliament for that purpose."

14. Subsection one of section forty-eight of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"48. Any member of the Civil Service may be appointed private secretary to the head of a department, and may be paid an additional salary not exceeding six hundred dollars a year while so acting, provided that such additional salary together with his ordinary salary shall not on appointment exceed the maximum salary of a second class clerk, and shall at no time exceed two thousand dollars a year."

15. Section forty-nine of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

"49. The head of a department, and in his absence the deputy head of such department, may grant to each officer, chief clerk, clerk or other employee, leave of absence for purposes of recreation for a period not exceeding three weeks in each year; and every such officer, clerk or employee, whether in the inside or outside division, shall take the leave so granted at such time during each year as the head of the department determines.

"2. In case of the illness of any officer, clerk or employee, or of contagious or infectious disease in his household, certified to, by a legally qualified medical practitioner and, if in the inside division of the service, reported upon by the supervisor when so requested by the head of the department, the Governor in Council may grant him leave of absence for a period not exceeding three months in any one year.

"3. For any reason which to him seems sufficient, the Governor in Council may grant to any officer, clerk or employee leave of absence for a period not exceeding twelve months; but no person shall receive any salary or pay for more than six months of such period."

16. Section fifty-six of the said Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsections thereto:—

"2. There shall also be kept in each department of the first division, and in each office of the second division a book, to be called the conduct book, which shall be in such form as is determined by the Governor in Council, in which the daily record of conduct, based on punctuality industry and performance of duty, of each officer, clerk or employee in such department or office, shall be entered by the deputy head of such department or the head of such office.

"3. In either division the hours of attendance shall be from nine o'clock in the forenoon to five o'clock in the afternoon, with an interval for luncheon of one hour, to be fixed by such deputy-head or head of the office, between twelve and two o'clock.

"4. In the case of officers, clerks or employees in the first division who reside outside of the city of Ottawa, the Governor in Council may fix a later hour than nine o'clock in the forenoon, provided that their daily attendance covers the same number of hours as are required by the next preceding subsection.

"5. During the session of Parliament the granting of an hour for luncheon in the first division shall be in the discretion of the deputy-head, provided that the continuous working of the department from nine o'clock in the forenoon to five o'clock in the afternoon is not interfered with.

"6. All officers, clerks and other employees shall be at the service of the department or office during any

hours outside of the above-mentioned hours of attendance if required by the head or deputy-head of such department or the head of such office.

"7. Each deputy-head of a department and each head of an office in the second division shall report quarterly, or oftener if required, to the Governor in Council the record of each person in his department or office."

The Supreme Court.

When the Supreme Court meets on Tuesday, 28th inst., the vacancy caused by the death of Chief Justice Ritchie and the elevation of Hon. Mr. Strong to chief justiceship having been filled on Saturday by the appointment of Mr. Robert Sedgewick, Q. C., deputy Minister of Justice, who was sworn in on the 21st inst., The elevation of Mr. Sedgewick to the bench will meet with the warm approval of the bar of Ontario and Nova Scotia especially; for the premature announcement of his appointment a couple of months ago had the effect, it will be remembered, of showering upon Mr. Sedgewick telegrams of congratulation from all over the country. The duties of the deputy ministership of justice will probably be discharged, temporarily at least, by Mr. Augustus Power.

Mr. William Smith.

MR. WILLIAM SMITH, Deputy Minister of Marine, is, since the retirement of Mr. Trudeau, of the Department of Railways and Canals, the senior of those of his rank, his appointment dating from the 11th of November, 1867—nearly a quarter of a century back. During the whole of this period he has performed the duties of his office with singular judgment and ability, and under no circumstance has the least reproach been thrown upon his name for acting harshly, or through unjust favouritism, or by being misled by prospect of personal advantage. His character has stood the most severe test, and criticism the most unfavourable, for no deputy minister in the performance of his duty can escape clashing with powerful private interests, and hence by a refusal to recognize claims, which he considers he cannot with justice admit, risks an antagonism frequently not measured in the expression of its indignation.

Mr. Smith was born in Scotland on the 12th of June, 1821, so he is now in his seventy-second year. He preserves his intellectual vigour in full force, and his judgment, educated by experience never was more unimpeachable. For the last half century Mr. Smith has been engaged in similar duties to those which he now fulfils, and his ability thus tutored by a life time's knowledge of their intricacies, has made him one of the most valuable officers of the government in his own province. His retirement would be an undoubted loss. One great mark of Mr. Smith's efficiency is that we hear nothing about him. No question comes before the public of a disputed account, or of any injustice on his part in the executive discharge of his office. We read no puffs written by some amiable editor of his virtues and wonderful activity, and he is allowed unobtrusively to go on his onward course, retaining the confidence of the Minister, who for the time is his official superior—"an amurath an amurath succeeds"—who is spared the trouble of investigating any *faux pas*, and who seldom finds time publicly to say the least good word of a subordinate. The one praise of an efficient Ottawa Deputy Minister, too, is that of the time of Horace, that he escapes censure. His work, however, lives after him, and the regulations and system he establishes, remaining prove their wisdom unchanged, continues a memorial of his executive ability.

Mr. Smith's record of service is one of unvaried activity. At the age of nineteen (1840), he entered the Imperial Customs, at the usual grade; two years later, in

1842, he was appointed a second class clerk in the Custom House at Saint John's, New Brunswick, then under Imperial control. Eight years later, in 1850, he was advanced to the responsible position of Surveyor of Shipping. In 1855 he was appointed to the important office, of Controller of Customs and Navigation and Registrar of Shipping. Three years later he was named Receiver-General of Admiralty Courts. It was not simply in this technical branch of duty that Mr. Smith's ability was appealed to. Owing to great dissatisfaction being expressed against the police department of Saint John's in 1858, he was appointed a commissioner to investigate the complaints, both a troublesome and difficult duty, satisfactorily performed by him.

In 1865 an attempt was made to extend the trade with the West India Islands; a Queen's ship was placed at the disposal of a commission to visit the several centres of trade and to establish more assured relationship with the several provinces of British North America. Commissioners were selected from the several provinces, and Mr. Smith was chosen to represent New Brunswick. Some weeks were engaged in the investigation. No important result came to pass from the proceeding; but a great deal of information was obtained. The subject from time to time comes to the surface. The late Mr. Spencer Jones made it an especial study, and had he been nominated to carry out his theories much good might have been effected; but Mr. Jones was without political influence to obtain a hearing for his views, and his unfortunate death has prevented his careful investigations being brought into the services of his country. The subject has somewhat dwelt in the public attention but it is in every way worthy of consideration, and the knowledge gained by Mr. Smith during the voyage among the islands, and his powers of observation and experience in business, could yet be observed to give a practical character to this oft recurring question. It is surprising that those whose interests lie in this direction do not make some effort to bring the Dominion into more prominence in this direction. More than two centuries ago, Toler saw the possibility of a trade with the Antilles. His theory was that a vessel could be loaded with dried cod, salt salmon, smoked eels, seal and porpoise oils, planks and timber, and proceed to the West Indies, there to load with sugar for France, and return with a cargo to Canada. No such roundabout course is necessary to-day; there is no requirement for such a tortuous commerce. Our relationship can be direct, and if a proper commissioner were named to deal with the question, a practical result might be effected. That the establishment of such trade would be for a time uphill work there is no doubt, but what labour of any magnitude has not this characteristic.

On Confederation, Mr. Smith was appointed Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Some short time back, 1884, the department in our judgment was injudiciously and unnecessarily divided. No one, we consider, was more inconvenienced by this division of duty than the Minister who remained the head of the two departments. Instead of having to deal with one mind in the person of a confidential deputy, he was subjected to the contrariety of view of two persons—which must always exist—and in this case the spheres of action if not identical are cognate. Lately this arrangement has been abandoned and Mr. Smith has been restored to the position from which he should never have been displaced.

Mr. Smith was also appointed a member of the Audit Board, and in May, 1868, he was named to the Board of Civil Service. When in England on official duty, in 1875, he was instructed to confer with the Colonial Secretary and the Board of Trade on the subject of Imperial merchant shipping legislation in the design of protecting the interests of Canadian shipping. In 1876 he was engaged in a similar duty.

Those who know Mr. Smith in private life can bear testimony to his unaffected hospitality. No one better

understands the *minutie* by which guests are set at ease, and the good taste and judgment which preside at his entertainments, need no remark in Ottawa. Even the most critical found something to praise. One of Mr. Smith's sons was a lieutenant in the navy, from which a short time back he retired. Another son is a well known gentleman in Montreal. One daughter is married in New York. Two daughters still remain admired members of the society in which they mix in this city.

Mr. Smith has before him many years of usefulness, and when the time comes to retire from the sphere in which he has been so long and so usefully engaged, it will carry with him both the public respect and the private esteem of all who in different degrees know his honourable and estimable career.

SALMON AND SALMON FISHING.

BY CHAPMAN CHILLCOTT.

The Salmon salar, or common salmon, has often been described as the king of fishes, both for the sport he furnishes to anglers and as a delicious article of food. It is related of a certain noted French gourmand that, on being told that his end was fast approaching, he looked his medical attendant full in the face and replied to this announcement: "Hélas! je n'aurai donc plus le plaisir de goûter une cotelette de saumon?"—Alas! I shall then never again enjoy a salmon cutlet!

But to the sportsman what can compare with the delight experienced in a battle-royal with this noble fish? A good, square fight, in which all the instincts of the hooked fish to break loose and the skill and experience of the fisherman to prevent it, are employed. And so many are the mishaps which may occur to the latter that no one is even sure of his salmon until he has him on the bank of the river, some yards from the water.

It is known to most people now that salt, and not fresh, water is the salmon's native element. The latter is only sought for the purpose of procreation; and in proof of this we have the positive fact that shortly after their entry into the rivers they begin to deteriorate.

The salmon is wonderfully adapted by his shape for swiftness in the water. Observe the small head, short and tapering almost to a point from shoulder to tip of nose, and delicately rounded body sloping gracefully to the strong, powerful tail, exhibiting altogether a form that would strike the casual beholder at a glance, as one capable of great speed. The writer has seen it stated that naturalists have estimated a salmon making or entering a river 20 miles the first day.

But this certainly must be one of very easy inlets and without heavy falls or rapids, that would permit of such a distance being reached. That, where no obstacles exist, their voyage up is made in wonderfully quick running, one can easily believe, viewing the powerful structure of the fish. Indeed, it has been related by a good authority that salmon were taken near Borestown, more than 60 miles from the mouth of the Miramichi river in New Brunswick, on the second day from that on which the schools first struck into the stake nets below the tide way. But I have in my mind now one small river in Nova Scotia, where, from the foot of the first pool to the tide way in the bay, at least three hundred yards, there is a foaming torrent where the river is high enough for salmon to take it, and so great is the fatigue experienced in the climb, that they invariably rest for a considerable time on reaching the smooth water of the first pool, before continuing their course upward.

Salmon always seek the higher part of a river to spawn and the places chosen are in somewhat shallow water, where there is not a very great current, and the bottom of gravel and sand, never where there is a probability of a violent freshet sweeping away the ova; for

where there is a deposit of mud. It appears necessary to the successful hatching out that, the ground selected should be in clear, gently running water, and here they pair and commence to make a nest, or trench for the reception of the eggs.

The period when this takes place is about the last of October and beginning of November—at least in Canada—and at this time it is observable that the male fish has a peculiar formation of the lower jaw, which at one time was thought to be intended in assisting the digging of the trench to retain the ova: but this now has been decided to be only a weapon of attack or defence.

It is most interesting to watch them while carrying on their spawning operations. I have gone very quietly over a well-known ground at night in a canoe, with a torch burning, and seen them lying in pairs evidently engaged in the work of procreation, and once I accidentally had, by creeping out on some logs one afternoon and lying concealed with a convenient aperture to peep through—a capital view of the whole proceeding.

The two were a very large female and a small male; the latter looked to me like a three or four pound grilse. She was hard at work on a gravel bed making a trench with her belly and using her tail as well, while he was most assiduous in keeping a strict watch to prevent the approach of intruders, now making a dart in one direction, now in another, circling round her and sometimes coming up and resting beside her for a moment or two, as if to assure her there was no danger of molestation as long as he was about. Once, as I watched, I saw a good sized trout cruising about, but apparently impertinently near, for the husband rushed at him in a perfect fury, and must have pursued the other fish some distance, for it was several seconds before he came back to his wife.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Tradesmen and Civil Servants.

There is no greater sin in this world than ingratitude, but every day that sin is strikingly exemplified in the demeanor of the Ottawa tradesmen towards the Civil Service. Tradesmen and others are apt to speak of the Civil Service as though it were composed of nothing but dead beats and robbers, but very rarely stay to think of what they owe to the Civil Service. No one will pretend to claim that there are no black sheep in the large family of "the blocks," but as Longfellow says:—

"There is no hearth, how well so e'er defended,
But has one vacant chair,
There is no flock however cared and tendered,
But one dead lamb is there."

So it is, and though there are as fine men in the Civil Service as in the church, the army, or any other liberal profession, yet, sadly one must admit there are dark shadows in the Civil Service. These however, are few, and not the rule.

Mais, revenons a nos moutons, the complaint generally is made that the Civil Service do not pay their debts. This is untrue. The Civil Servants do pay their debts, and pay them better than the tradesmen who malign them. A tradesman may live highly for a year or two on the credit of his business, then his store is closed, a meeting is called, and an offer of 20 cents on the dollar made and accepted. Some of the society tradesmen of the city know how true this is from experience. The Civil Servant may not be able to pay the whole of a large bill at once, but each month he pays something until he has paid the full hundred cents on the dollar, and interest too, if it comes to a fine point.

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