

From the salary of every officer (except telegraph messengers) appointed on and after the 1st of April, 1891, a deduction at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum shall be made, for the purpose of providing for the compensation to be paid to officers on leaving the service. The sums so deducted to be paid into a separate fund to the Public Trustee, to be invested at interest.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in any class, and if it be necessary to fill such vacancy, the Governor in Council may promote thereto an officer next entitled by seniority and merit combined. If it be found that no officer in the class next below that in which the vacancy occurs is eligible for promotion to the vacancy, by reason of merit and suitability, then such vacancy shall be filled up from any class in such division in which a person qualified by merit and suitability can be found, on the recommendation of the Board of Officers to be appointed for the purpose of hearing appeals.

No appointments shall be made from outside to fill any vacancy unless it is certified by the head of the department that there is no officer available or possessing the necessary qualifications to be promoted to fill such vacancy.

Leave of absence may, at such times as it may be convenient, be granted to every officer in the clerical division for recreation, as under :—

To an officer who has served fifteen years and upwards, not exceeding four weeks in each year.

To an officer with less than fifteen and more than ten years' service, three weeks.

To an officer who has served ten years and over one year, two weeks.

Officers in the Non-clerical Division may receive two weeks' leave in each year, except in the case of telegraph-message boys, who may be given a week's leave in each year after one year's service.

No officer shall be entitled to claim such leave as a right ; and if for any cause the head of the department thinks such leave ought not to be granted, he may refuse the same in any case.

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