

WELL WORTH READING

Letter Carriers have left the C. S. Federation

A Dominion-wide organization of all Civil Service unions, which will likely be chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, is being planned by civil servants. The last big civil service organization affiliated with labor has withdrawn from the Civil Service Federation, decreasing the membership of that body by some 1,200 members. These are the Dominion Federation of Letter Carriers, an organization in affiliation with the Trades and Labor Congress for a number of years.

The decision to withdraw was made at the Peterboro convention of the letter carriers, and communicated to the headquarters of the Federation here. The reason given was that affiliation with the Federation had never been endorsed by the membership, which did not uphold the executive action in joining the Federation.

The Civil Service Federation has not accepted the withdrawal, and placed the latter on file. However, the letter carriers have not paid per capita tax, nor will they do so, it was stated.

This is the second big post office organization to leave the Federation. The Dominion Postal Clerks' Association, 2,000 strong, withdrew some time ago, and later affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress. Mr. J. C. O'Connor, president of the Federation, would make no comment on the matter.

—Ottawa Journal, Sept. 29.

A Cause of Unrest

The possession by one man of greater capital or income than another does not necessarily constitute an inequity. The educated, able, industrious business man is entitled to more compensation than the uneducated laborer, and very little envy or unrest is caused by success legitimately and righteously obtained.

It is the accumulation of unearned profits illegally or even legally acquired, and the disproportionate returns received from certain sorts of service compared with equally valuable labor, that arouse discontent in the hearts of the unsuccessful and create dissatisfaction of a dangerous sort.

The question to be determined is whether our customary financial transactions

are reasonably righteous, and comparatively fair to the public, or if they are so unjust as to warrant the prevalent indignant outburst against all "plutocrats" and the financial system as a whole.

It has frequently happened that speculations by the affluent have gone unpunished or that the rich defaulter has been speedily pardoned, while petty thefts by the needy result in long imprisonment, but such class distinctions, dangerous though they be, are less serious than the general acceptance of our present methods of conducting business as ethical because legitimate. The men who have engineered many questionable transactions are among the most respectable citizens in the country, and they themselves honestly believe in their own integrity. They are prominent in church and society, often good husbands and fathers, and have no conception of the havoc wrought by their manipulations.

The public is ignorant too. There is a general suspicion that money is often made too fast, but there is entire lack of comprehension of the disastrous effect of apparently harmless procedure upon the public welfare. The lambs are instructed to keep out if they do not know the game or take the consequences.

The great inequity is that every transaction by which financiers reap an undue profit influences disadvantageously the economic status of the worker and the welfare of the public.

EDITOR, *The Arbitrator*.

Women Civil Servants

By M. L. Cale.

(*Whitley Council Representative of the Federation.*)

The political pressure of the women voters is having a very potent effect upon members of the House of Commons, and it will be increasingly difficult as time goes on to resist the demand which is being made on all hands for the removal of the crippling restrictions on the employment of women both in the National Service and outside. The attitude of the House of Commons towards Major Hill's resolution on May 19, which was agreed to without division, and, it was reported, with cheers, plainly shows that women have only to maintain that pressure with a steady insistence and they will achieve their object.

Equal Pay in the House

This resolution called for equality of treatment as between men and women in the civil service, both as regards pay and conditions of employment, and the passing of this motion indicates a weakening of the opposition which prevented women from getting a proper measure of fairplay under the Whitley Report. But it must be made perfectly clear that a pious expression of opinion will not satisfy us, and our rulers at Westminster will have no peace until their passive agreement to the principle is galvanized into active support of our claim.

An Eye on Politics

In addition to keeping an eye on politics, the Federation is co-operating with other women's societies to a closer extent than has hitherto been possible with the means at their disposal, and arrangements have been made for interviewing the various heads of Government Departments to discuss either the extension or the introduction of women's employment, and to make suggestions as to the best methods of dealing with the question.

This extension of activity has necessitated the taking of new offices and the engagement of two full-time organisers, and great keenness and earnestness is being evinced by the women in the service in the various movements on foot in the different offices.

A Progressive Ministry

In the meantime a strong fight is being put up by the women in the service to gain admittance to the executive class both on the score of the work they are already doing and of their potential capacity for undertaking a larger share in the administrative and other higher work than has hitherto been granted to them. They will not tolerate any longer the rapid advancement of young men of no better qualifications than their own to positions of authority over them, and they will demand their proper appointment to higher work. The Ministry of Labor is undoubtedly taking the lead in bringing decent treatment to its women staff, but even there the high officials are occasionally subject to strong reactionary influence, which tend to prevent them from giving, except under