

not only to serious, important business, but also to the sheer drudgery incidental to their posts of secretary, treasurer, or the like. A practice better adapted for frightening off aspirants to such posts could not be devised. If the work be worth the doing, it is worthy of better distribution, and this applies not only to the Civil Service Association, but to the Athletic Association, the Loan Society, and, not least, to THE CIVILIAN itself.

On the present occasion, it only remains to say that the annual meeting of the Association must be held, according to the constitution, not later than the second Tuesday of November, which, needless to say, admits of its being held before the Tuesday mentioned. As the annual meeting of the Loan Society is fixed definitely for the same second Tuesday, admitting of no change of date, some prior date for the Association's meeting should be agreed upon and announced as soon as is convenient, so that any possible misunderstanding may be avoided.

(Since the above was written, the executive committee has fixed the date of this year's meeting for Friday, Nov. 6th, proximo.)

MUNICIPAL POLITICS.

In our issue of the 25th September we indicated, in a general way, the desirability of civil servants taking an active part in the ensuing civic elections. The suggestion appears to have been well received, and, despite the distractions attendant upon the general elections, considerable interest has been evinced in what is recognized to be a matter of unusual importance.

It is high time, in the interest of the entire community, that something was done to ensure the election of a council composed of men seized of the necessity of applying business

methods to the administration of civic affairs.

The present council is typical of what we have had in this and other cities for many years. It is not urged that it is a particularly bad one; neither can it be said that its good qualities are at all conspicuous. The great fault lies in the lack of definite purpose and the individual anxiety to "square" Tom, Dick or Harry of the ward.

Nobody denies that this condition is a most unsatisfactory and unfortunate one, yet nobody does anything to remedy it. The privilege, nay, the duty, of civil servants is to do that which others of the community have failed to do. Even if it be necessary to go into the service to find them, let us, next year, have men of purpose and of courage in our city council. When this is done there will be an end of juggling and bungling such as characterized the attitude of council towards the tuberculosis hospital project, and half-hearted measures, such as were adopted in dealing with the question of the Aylmer sewage.

Then there is the other aspect of the case. Civil service interests need to be safeguarded in council. Notwithstanding the statement of the city solicitor, it is pretty generally understood that the income assessment is to be used as a lever to force the government to grant "better terms" to the city. In other words, the service is to be used to pull the city's chestnuts out of the government fire. If the service objects to being used as the catspaw in this connection, it will be necessary to have the right men in council to enforce that objection, and to see that civil servants are protected in this as in every other matter in which they are interested as citizens of Ottawa.

Does anyone doubt the necessity for a step such as we have advocated? If so, let him reflect upon the fact that at the time the monthly pay cheques were withheld and the city