

faithfully described by some of the victims during the investigation a few years ago. To many of the distressed, the new society brought immediate relief, and in scores of cases during each year of its existence it has extended that assistance which involved no danger or shame to the beneficiary. To those who would save, to those who would join in a worthy enterprise, and to those who need a friendly hand, the society offers an unusually attractive opportunity.

"Cost of living" is the problem of the day. Most of those who seek to solve it would do so by raising wages. This solution is most desirable, but not easily achievable. While we argue and memorialize and amass statistics to prove our contentions, the prices of butter and eggs and beef-steak soar serenely and threaten to gain such distance that to overtake them seems hopeless. There is another solution to this problem,—not quite so attractive in prospect and not quite so instantly effective as that of the increased salary, but having the enormous advantage of being available all the time. This is Co-operation. If we cannot raise salaries to the level of the cost of living we can bring the cost of living down to the level of salaries. Co-operation shows us how. It has been practised and tested and found true in many places and under varying conditions. In England it is a boon to millions. Co-operation produces, distributes and sells. Its farms cover hills and valleys, its factories roar with industry, and its ships plough the salt seas,—co-operative in hull, cargo and crew. In Canada co-operative effort is in its infancy,—but it is a lusty infant. Wage earners in many cities are practising it to a greater and greater extent, and many who are not participating in the movement long for an opportunity to do so. To Ottawa civil servants this opportunity is ready. The Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association affords the means by which the benefits of the system may

be secured. Over six hundred civil servants are already enrolled in that organization. The member helps himself, the association and his fellow-members by every cent he spends in the store. Groceries are the big item in the cost of living, and any measure of control of the price of groceries means material aid in the solution of the pressing problem. Already something has been accomplished and added members and added business alone are needed to secure and make certain more marked success. The passing of a federal act will extend the benefits of co-operation to every town and hamlet where a civil servant resides.

Finally, there is the Civil Service Association itself. It stands for co-operation in finance and business, increased remuneration, better protection for the dependent, juster conditions and wider opportunities. It means co-operation of the most comprehensive sort. "Each for all and all for each" might well be its motto. Every member is a co-operator in the great work.

These are, in brief, some of the opportunities peculiar to the situation of the Ottawa civil servant. He who does not take the fullest possible advantage of every one of them is cheating himself. If any one of these benefits were to be removed the re-action would be very apparent. Not only would the participators suffer loss, but the whole body of civil servants would be sensible of the ill-effect. "Providence helps those who help themselves." The civil servants can help themselves in many ways. If they neglect to do so, who is to blame?

Whether in Ottawa or elsewhere engaged in this great Canadian service, have you joined your local association or other society connected with the personnel of which you are an important unit? Are you giving at least your moral support to those movements for a better understanding and organization of the business in which you are engaged?

Gentle reader,—are you doing your part?