

THE CIVILIAN

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receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Feb. 20, 1914

"The law pertaining to the civil service should be honestly and rigidly enforced, to the end that merit and ability should be the standard of appointment and promotion, rather than service rendered to a political party."

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"Entrance to the civil service should be at the bottom, and the custom of securing men from outside the ranks and placing them ahead of old employees should be discouraged, and only resorted to when public interest demands. Civil service protects employees in their positions, but it holds them there in stagnation unless a method be found to not only secure the time of its employees, but to stimulate and reward their ambition."

A CIVIL SERVICE MINISTER.

The Minister of the Crown now specially in the public eye as the "Civil Service Minister," is the Honourable W. T. White, Minister of Finance. An expression of Mr. White's interest in a well-managed service is discovered not *alone* in his undertaking a Superannuation Bill, for he has coupled with that intricate subject the still more complex problem of a revision of the Civil Service Act. That he will go as far as may be possible in a single step to repair the machinery of the great administration workshop there can be no doubt. One of the first duties falling to Mr. White's lot in assuming charge of his public office was to make a presentation to one of the old members of his department, about to retire from active service. Those who read the report of his remarks on that occasion will recall the enthusiastic interest he expressed in the value of esprit de corps, to be attained by decentralization of authority and administration of public duties. A state of service congenial, if not congenital, appealed to him as a successful organizer of business.

The service does not desire paternalism or communism. It does not desire donatives such as ruined the Roman soldiery. As ardent lovers of Canada and jealous of her good name, the members of the service first and foremost desire a student in the person of a Civil Service Minister, who has the disposition and the patriotism to attempt a herculean task; a task involving the whole structure and contents of Canada's workshop, the method of acquiring new machinery the manner of disposing of each wheel and bolt in its most deserving and desirable place, and a daily, hourly supervision of the contexture. Mr. White is a student. That he has undertaken a magnificent task in addition to other emergent and absorb-