

# THE CIVILIAN

Devoted to the interests of the Civil Service  
of Canada.

Subscription \$1.00 a year;  
Single copies 5 cents.

Advertising rates are graded according to  
position and space, and will be fur-  
nished upon application.

Subscriptions, MSS intended for publication,  
and all other communications should be  
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THE EDITORS,  
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P. O. Box 484, Ottawa

Communications on any subject of interest  
to the Civil Service are invited and will  
receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, July 25, 1913

## PARTIZAN PATRONAGE. (3)

There are influences for good in the national life of Canada. Why have not the Church and the Press, by salvo or by independent fire, made an attack upon this most palpable evil in the body politic. In truth neither have done so, notwithstanding the perennial crop of public scandals, little and great.

In religion, the politic paters of fatherless flocks use guarded language on this abuse. Is it possible that while their words fly up their thoughts are upon the collection plate? "Use can almost change the face of nature," and certain it is that we are becoming accustomed to the stench arising from the spoils of office. Let us pray that our pastors may be shortly converted to Christianity.

Then let us look to the press, the fourth estate of the realm, for succour in our time of trouble. Why does not the press unite to sterilize the microscope, which breeds from civil service

patronage, the scandals and inefficiency of public service? The reason is that every newspaper has telephonic communication between its editorial and business departments. Every newspaper editor has the evidence to prove the evils of civil service patronage, yet every newspaper is dumb as regards the genesis, the analysis and the deteriorating effect of partizan patronage upon the morals of the people and the state of its public business. Every editor imbued with a well balanced sense of justice is inclined at the first encounter with a public question to treat it as his heart dictates, until a telephone message comes from the business department. He then ceases to be animated by the loftiest motives and desires, where only he can do his best work. His motive power at once becomes the muscles of the managerial pocket-book,—a poor inspiration to any good work.

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Wherein then lies the hope of rescue from the slough of despond. Surely by the service itself raising signals of distress until the public takes cognizance of the fact. Addresses to parliament fall on deaf ears, but the public is more powerful than the politician. Herein surely lies the function of the Civil Service Federation of Canada. Already the machinery exists to carry on this very work. The federation has a publicity committee formed for the very purpose of reminding the people that they are owners of a big business with a staff of tens of thousands of men and women. Let us humbly and most respectfully beg of the executive of the federation to use this committee for all it is worth, giving it the funds necessary to carry on its work.

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As far as *The Civilian* is concerned, the editors have accomplished a stern duty in putting in plain type their conception of the facts concerning civil service employment under partizan patronage. The merit system