

governor or *any other citizen* may file charges against commissioners or a commissioner before two judges who hear evidence and render judgment.

### A Problem in Administration.

A Public Service Commission has its own difficult problems to solve. Just to mention one, in passing, let the following question be submitted,— shall appointments be made in numerical order from the top of the eligible list, or shall the employing department have the privilege of choosing from the list at will whomsoever it desires. The danger of the latter course is evident. The person named at the bottom of the list knows someone in authority, and is chosen as one having "special qualifications." The late Mayor Gaynor was confronted with this proposition in New York City, and he made an inexorable law that appointments should be made from the top of the list. If this plan were departed from he insisted upon being furnished with a written statement of adequate reasons for the change. He had to do this "to prevent injustice and corruption from creeping in." Herein lies trouble for commissioners, and no slight responsibility.

### Our Own Commission.

On mounting to the second floor in the Trafalgar building, the first sight to strike the eye is the following notice:—

### Civil Service Commission.

#### PRIVATE.

This sign very well expresses the attitude of the commissioners towards the public. The 1909 report was promising, and contains sixteen pages of actual report including much valuable elucidation of a number of problems. The 1910 report contains only six such pages with a sad falling off in elucidation. The 1911 report contains five pages of actual report; reference to the many service problems being disappointingly absent or brief. The 1912 report was silent

as respects any discussion of problems, or reference to the issues fought out with the enemies of the merit system. The commissioners dispose of their responsibilities for administering the merit system for that year in six lines, and plead in justification of this meagre account, the fact that Sir George Murray was about to issue a report.

It must be admitted, however, that the commissioners do advertize. They advertize in the Canada Gazette. Now the Canada Gazette is the medium of publicity used by those who desire to keep the information they are giving out, a profound secret. Here we find economic secrets given a recondite publicity. Groups of men floating their securities over a false bottom, or adding water to their stock under the Companies Act, proclaim their malefactions without fear of being discovered or of having to make restitution. As good luck would have it, certain of the press consider the semi-annual examinations of the commissioners of some importance and reproduce their announcements. But in the case of the special competitive examinations, no such course is being pursued, except that *The Civilian* has recently begun to cut the notices from the Gazette for the information of the service.

There has already appeared in *The Civilian* evidence to show that commissions in other countries are operated on the publicity principle and it is not necessary, therefore, to reproduce that evidence. A recent example has occurred in New Zealand, where publicity has reared its head in spite of traditional bureaucracy. The Board of Appeal in that country decides appeals from the rulings of the C. S. Commission. A reporter of the civil service journal is admitted to the meetings of this board, for proof of which read the following from the *Katipo* of Oct. 20th last.

Before the preliminary meeting of the