

presume to thank him, but the next day he fights better."

Hope that the Civil Service is to be taken seriously by those in whose hands its fortunes rest is another emotion that will follow the reading of the laudatory words of the Finance Minister. The Service has been neglected, ridiculed, used for personal and party ends, suspected, cajoled, bullied,—it has been treated in every way except the right way by all concerned. When those who are in the best position to judge declare that the Service can do business, do it well, do it well even under trying conditions, surely the time is at hand when the Canadian public and its political representatives will see that the Civil Service ought to be treated on a business and common-sense basis. Fair conditions of work, organization that will promote self-respect, and reasonable reward for good work done,—these three things at least should be secured.

But what a mixed mixture of feelings comes over the interested reader when he comes to Sir Thomas White's statement that for the present the increase of salaries of civil servants is not to be considered.

We are in the midst of a war. The Government preaches economy, and does well so to preach. If it practises economy,—we could surely have no more convincing proof of it than that we are the anti-beneficiaries of it. And economy is right at this time. Who can doubt it? How much better off we are than those, including so many of our own number, whose sense of duty has caused them to give up all the good things of life, and even life itself, in defense of the nation whose servants we are.

And yet, the war is making stronger and stronger that ancient, grievous and persistent enemy of us all, the Cost of Living. In other lines of endeavour, we are told, profits are increasing and wages are ris-

ing because of the war. In many department of the Government, as in that over which Sir Thomas White presides, the work is heavier and the responsibility more burdensome because of the war.

The Civil Service has loyally and unitedly postponed its claims for consideration of salary reforms and other reforms as well, in order that those having Canada's affairs in charge might not be embarrassed in their momentous and tremendous labours. Before Sir Thomas White spoke the Civil Service itself had spoken in favor of a postponement of domestic problems until the vital problems of the war should be solved. We have no regrets and no desire to change; the war is the first and supreme consideration.

But every man and woman in the Civil Service is pledged to his or her own people and to his or her own future, as well as pledged in loyalty to the Service itself, to make a career even in the humbler ranks of public office worthy not only in good work done but in fair reward received. It can be of no benefit to the public to weaken the Civil Service at this time. But if great rewards are offered in other fields and no rewards in the Civil Service, the results to Canada may be injurious, even keeping in view nothing but the war.

The interest of the Civil Service is in reality the public interest. And in nothing is the public more vitally concerned than in maintaining an administrative organization than can respond to even the heaviest demands that may be made upon its working power.

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#### A DANGER IGNORED IS A DANGER STILL.

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*The Civilian* does not like to say "We told you so,"—but that would be a true remark just the same. On more than one occasion this journal