

### PRAISE FOR THE SERVICE.

Members of the Civil Service, reading the report of the debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 29th May, will be reminded of the story of the office boy who, when asked what salary he was earning, said he earned \$3,000 a year but that all he got was \$2 a week.

In Committee of Supply, when the estimates for the salaries of the staff of the Finance Department were under discussion, Mr. Pugsley objected to the sums proposed to be paid to some of the leading officials, on the ground that they were beyond what were provided for under the Civil Service Act, and therefore were likely to arouse dissatisfaction among other officials equally deserving but less fortunate. Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, defended his course with some warmth, and, to justify what he had done, gave a full and most interesting account of the heavy extra labors thrown upon his officials by the war. He informed the committee that because of the limitations imposed upon him in the fixing of salaries he had lost one of the most valuable of his officers, Mr. Henry T. Ross, who had left the public service to accept the more lucrative office of Secretary of the Canadian Bankers' Association. In the course of his remarks, Sir Thomas White said:

"I speak with some feeling in this matter, because I know personally that the efficiency of administration in this country depends upon the Civil Service. I say that men of the greatest ability in the Civil Service, some of whom have come under my attention in my own department, have, on account of the criticism which is offered from time to time with regard to salaries which outside would be considered entirely inadequate for the duties they perform, been prevented from being dealt with justly by Governments and by Parliament. I say that, and as far as the Finance Department is concerned, why should men who have carried on the duties they have performed since this war has broken out be paid half the amount or less than they would receive if they were working with financial institutions doing the same kind of work? There

is a comradeship between myself and the officials of my department, and I have the highest possible respect for them as they have for me. So far from being over-paid, those occupying the most important positions are substantially underpaid, and it is a marvel to me that men such as those that I have in mind are content to remain in the Service and to discharge so faithfully as they do the duties imposed upon them, having regard to the salaries they are paid. So far as I am concerned, I say that those salaries instead of being too high, are decidedly too low."

Mr. Pugsley, in reply, joined in praise of the Civil Service. He said:

"My hon. friend the Minister of Finance speaks of the work that has been done; and I am willing to recognize the importance of it, and the splendid way in which it has been done; I am willing to join in testimony to the officials of the Finance Department for their energy, capability, and devotion to duty. But I desire, also, to say to the Dominion Government and the people of Canada that they ought to be proud of the Civil Service at Ottawa in all departments, and I have had occasion to know the way in which they perform their duties. I say that in all the departments the Government and people of this country are getting splendid service at, in most instances, a very low remuneration for the duties which are performed by the Civil Service."

He insisted that he had not found fault with the salaries paid, and added:

"It is because I think there ought to be certain general rules which should apply to all the departments, and the Civil Service Act having been brought into operation to prevent discrimination taking place, to prevent favoritism, and to have one rule which should govern promotions and increases in salaries in all departments,—it is because of all these things that I have said that the Minister is violating the spirit of the Act, and that I have been endeavouring to criticize him in what I trust has not been in an offensive manner, but simply a manner that might be calculated to draw his attention to the undesirability of discriminating in this way and to stop such a course being followed in the future."

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, former Postmaster General, spoke, in part, as follows:

"I have always shown my sympathy with the Civil Service in a practical way, because I know many of the civil servants; and while I do not begrudge the increases which have been given in the cases mentioned by the Minister of Finance, and