

getting the benefit of laws and administrations designed to encourage the good civil servant and get rid of the bad one. In fact, the idea that the civil service is a career and not a job is slowly making its way through the convolutions of the public brain. "A light in darkness: let it grow."

\* \* \*

And it is growing. As a most welcome and refreshing sign of the times when public opinion shall have reached the fundamental sanity that will permit it to react on conditions in the civil service we reprint the following editorial of July 20 from the *Toronto News* under the heading: "The Civil Service."

"To the average mind the words civil service bring two pictures — one of a well dressed personage faring up Elgin street, Ottawa, towards a Castle of Indolence, or faring from the Castle to the Rideau Club; the other, of a Customs outlander stopping to gossip with a friend before attending to customers. In like manner the word Government is visualized as an amorphous something, dwelling in Gothic splendor, and handing out jobs to supporters.

"This latter actively accounts for our latent impressions of the civil service. We have been accustomed to believe that a government job is the solution of that ancient problem: How can I live without working? So we who pretend to be industrious have grown contemptuous of the service — in an unthinking way — and have bent our noses to the grindstone in the spirit of thankfulness. We have to work. We do work, and thus acquire merit in our own souls at a cheap rate. Feeling self-laudatory, we are a bit lofty in spirit concerning yeggmen, tramps, and civil servants. We almost feel like including the latter class of national pensioners in our prayers 'for infants and young children.'

"The party system of filling government offices has degraded the civil

ment offices has degraded the civil service in the eyes of the people. False ideas are prevalent. It is not true that the existence of a government employee is a halcyon time-passing. Indeed it is utterly the reverse of true. From the Auditor-General down the work is toilsome and long. There is enough and more than enough to occupy the keenest mind and the most alert observation. And it is not to be denied that intelligent and industrious men are meeting these problems daily, solving them by the application of good horse sense, and getting out of the solution the satisfaction that good work induces. Some times we meet civil servants mourning over their lot, and airing a perpetual "grouch." These are the lazy ones—expectant of no work and finding a great deal. But it must be said that they form a negligible minority. Yet many of us have allowed this minority to sit for a photograph of the service.

"Consider the expansion of Canada, its extent, the vast deal that must be done to improve our ports, to provide transportation, to light our waterways, to stimulate agriculture, to erect public buildings, to meet the needs of new settlers, to advertise our resources, to conserve our wealth, to police the West. The Ministers of the Crown do no detail work—or almost none—yet they are swamped with correspondence on mere matters of policy. Think of the task of a Deputy Minister, how he must organize, and learn, and investigate; how he must command an intimate knowledge of administrative and financial detail far more involved than that of the largest of private corporations! And on down through the Chief Clerks in charge of sub-departments to the stenographer—all must work swiftly and accurately if they are to emerge triumphant at the end of the day.

"Why should politics count in the appointment and promotion of these men? Is there anything more stupid?