

THE BIG
PULL.

RECENT references to the appointment of a Collector of Customs at Vancouver revive the memory of a hideous nightmare of a midwinter night's dream two years ago. It was no dream but a dreadful actuality. The history of this case was paraded in these columns in different issues. Here are the facts recapitulated. Col. Carey came to Ottawa in search of political influence under the "Merit System" and was not disappointed. He met with one reverse at least when he called at the Dominion headquarters of the G. W. V. A. and was metaphorically marched off the parade ground when his errand was made known, for he had run into a very reliable friend of law and order—David Loughran—who it so happened had spent a short period of his life under the "Preventive" system of the Customs service. However, the Colonel put it over the "other ranks" in the Customs who had helped to make the world safe for "Hypocrisy". This is how the shell game was played. An order was issued under the *merit system* that Col. Carey was to be appointed and so (1) the Department declined to nominate a man for promotion and (2) the Commission altered the reading of qualifications as required by law from "Customs experience" to "business experience". These facts in detail will be found in *The Civilian* for December, 1919. The comedy and the tragedy, the joys and the sorrows of these stirring events were well known at the time to those who held office as trustees for the integrity of their clientele under the merit system.

These are the facts of this famous, infamous case following so soon after the tearing up of the Belgian pledge by the German ruling authorities. No comment is necessary, as each one of our readers may decide whether or not this was a test case for the trying out of the integrity of the administrators of Canadian law and order and for protest loud and long.

WATCH

SASKATCHEWAN has beaten all the other Canadian provinces to it in securing a Whitley council. A momentous day in the annals of the civil service! Such an example should soon bear fruit in the seemingly less fertile soil of

other provincial governments. Why there should be the slightest opposition to this system of rectifying blunders and inaugurating reforms is more than the average intellect can comprehend. Direct representation is the very basis of British justice, also of contentment and efficiency. When a man has had a hand in the making of a law he is hardly in a position to complain if he doesn't like it. We will watch Saskatchewan with keen interest, and study the constitution of her Civil Service Joint Council so as to be prepared for that near day when we will be drawing up such a document for our Federal selves. In the meantime, Saskatchewan, power to your elbow!

Editorial Notes

Deputations from both the Civil Service Federation of Canada and the Associated Federal Employees of Ottawa recently waited upon the Civil Service Commission for the purpose of advocating the representation of the employees on the body which it is proposed to set up to hear the individual appeals of civil servants against classification. If the service is divided on some issues it is one on the necessity of having the rank and file share in the drawing up of the laws under which they are governed, in other words in a Whitley Council system. Reclassification has for the most part left Government employees stranded on a mud bank. The Commission may be sympathetic and willing to assist them back into the water, but unless the departmental boards that are to hear the appeals include representatives elected by the employees the individual problems, in some cases near-tragedies, are apt to receive but a cursory examination.

More women were recently appointed as magistrates in the west of England, which is typical of the way in which women are taking their place in the larger life of the country. All these women have been energetic workers for the public good and have been largely concerned in the betterment of social conditions in the sphere in which they work.

God Give Us Men!

*God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands,
Men whom the lust of office can not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office can not buy;
Men who possess opinion and a will;
Men who have honor, men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatterings without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog,
In public duty and in private thinking.*

—The Civil Service Chronicle,