

Civilian is loath to believe that this gentleman knew the facts when he spoke as he did. It believes rather that the responsibility for a grave injustice rests upon his informants. Who these are cannot be declared here.

Still bound and gagged by political control, the Service cannot retort upon its calumniators as their baseness deserves. However, the truth is always sufficient answer to a lie. If the public will compare the unquestionable statistics now placed before them with the statements made by the anti-Civil Service speakers and writers, the Service will need no further defence.

BE PREPARED.

The boy scouts' motto, "Be Prepared," might be said to be the keynote of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Federation of Canada last week. That the Civil Service organizations of Canada must be prepared for the presentation of Civil Service legislation to Parliament is agreed, but when the members of the Executive went into the situation in detail they found that the Outside Service is not prepared, either in regard to effective organization or to legislative proposals, as is the Inside Service. The last convention somewhat hastily adopted the report of the Ottawa association on the "White bills." More deliberate consideration discloses that these measures, if amended as proposed by the Ottawa association, would not even then be fully adapted to the conditions of the Outside Service. The Federation committee will now take up this problem anew, and when it meets again, six months hence, will have before it a mass of valuable data such as has never been available before. As predicted, the results of this gathering of a few serious men are already important and the heavy responsibility of securing further and

far more valuable results rests upon the members of the committee. In view of the conditions disclosed, the delay to Civil Service legislation occasioned by the war is not wholly disadvantageous so far as the Outside Service is concerned. Had the "White bills" been enacted into law at either of the last two sessions of Parliament, the Outside Service would now be clamorous with dissatisfaction. The Ottawa association is prepared for action at any time because it has worked long and hard over these bills. The Outside Service can reach a like state of preparedness only by the earnest efforts of the men who sit in the councils of the Federation.

THE ASSEMBLY.

The National (now the "American") Assembly of Civil Service Commissioners not being a legislative body, the results of its convention are difficult to define, yet no one who heard the thoughtful papers read in its sessions, and the keen understanding discussions which followed their presentation, could doubt that every man there was learning something worth while and that some good effect would be felt in each one's sphere of influence. The men who composed the meeting are earnest men. They are doing a great work and they honor their undertaking. The public services of two nations of ten States and of innumerable municipalities are, in varying degrees, in their hands. Their watchword is "Merit," and the merit of the work they are doing insures its extension to every branch of civil employment in every corner of the Republic and the Dominion in the very near future. Merit knows no national bounds, and it was very fitting that the organization should substitute the continental adjective "American" for the more restricted term "National" in its name and that a Cana-