

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. II.

SEPTEMBER 24th, 1909

No. 11

Some Ideals of Public Service.

An Address by **NICHOLAS LOCKYER, I.S.O., Assistant Comptroller-General of Customs, Australia.**

[The following is the text, in somewhat abridged form, of an admirable address delivered a few weeks ago before the Public Service Association of Australia, a body which corresponds in the main to the Civil Service Federation of Canada. The words, it will be seen, are those of a civil servant who has worked his way from the lowest to the highest round of the ladder. The civil service of Australia is in a unique position. It has no evil traditions. It was a part of the birth of the new nation, arising under the immediate auspices of reform, though recruited largely from the previous colonial services. This will explain the tone of certain passages of the following. Interest will be felt in the passing references to conditions in the Australian service, especially to the working of the inspection system, a description of which has on a previous occasion been published in *THE CIVILIAN*. A copy of the address in pamphlet form was forwarded to the Department of Trade and Commerce by Mr. D. H. Ross, Dominion Trade Commissioner at Melbourne, and has reached *THE CIVILIAN* by the courtesy of Mr. F. C. T. O'Hara, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce.]

Introductory.

Before I proceed to the subject for this evening I desire to make a few remarks of a personal character so that I may not be misunderstood. Beyond a long, and, I hope, an honour-

able service, I must confess I have no claims to appear before you as a teacher. I have endeavoured to practice the various ideas which I am placing before you, but I beg you will acquit me of any intention to appear in any other character than one who, considering he has something to say, says it as an officer to his brother officers, equal in earnestness, but with no desire on his part of self-assertiveness or superior claims to be heard. To the standard bearers of the service I cannot hope to say anything new or original. My remarks are mainly directed to the junior members, suggesting for their thoughtful consideration some facts in regard to the organization to which they have the honour to belong.

The Tendency Toward Growth.

It is the tendency of all governments to widen their powers of control, to increase each year their influence and direction over enterprises and services which formerly were considered outside the province of the recognized functions of Government. This, the inevitable result of the progress of democratic ideals, necessarily entails an ever-increasing civil service, with a correspondingly increasing expenditure.

The cost of government will be subjected to keener criticism, and the absolute necessity for strict economy, accompanied by the best business methods in the civil service, will be more and more indispensable each