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The Politician's Favourite Occupation

Professor Milner says, Act 45 of Magna Charta may be called the first civil service rule. "We will not make," it reads, "any justices, constables, sheriffs or bailiffs, but of such as know the law of the realm and mean truly to observe it."

In the reign of Richard II. came the second civil service rule: "None shall obtain office by suit or reward, but upon desert."

In the year 1907, almost seven hundred years after Magna Charta, and five hundred years after Richard II. the same principles are being fought for. Canada wants all her civil services filled upon merit not upon favour. No man should enter the service of the state without a qualifying competitive examination, nor should be promoted except in the same manner.