

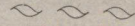
to bring suit against the government you must first obtain its consent and proceed through a special court.

Anyone, moreover, who calls the civil service "debt-proof" on general grounds and as a matter of fact is talking ignorantly. Instead of the case being as the Free Press insinuates it is exactly the opposite. It is easier to get money out of the civil service than any other class of equal financial standing in the community, and any merchant who does business in a reputable way and not in the spirit of the money shark will tell you so. These are not *The Civilian's* words but those of three of the largest dealers in Ottawa, who were not speaking for publication to the service, but in response to a private outside inquiry. The Free Press is a near neighbour to several thousands of civil servants, and if it is going to discuss a question of this kind it should pay them the compliment of finding out the a-b-c of it. Up to the present its tone is just as absurd as if it were discussing the exemption of the judiciary from military service in the terms of the personal courage of judges, and on the underlying assumption that judges are cowards.

We feel that, first and last, we have given more space to this matter than it deserves. We have done so, however, because it offers a good illustration of the slipshod talk that so largely prevails on matters appertaining to the public service. In the old days and even at the present in rural districts all civil servants held and hold "fat jobs." Just as the ease and remuneration of the job are immensified, so the exemption from garnishment becomes transfigured into the Free Press' "debt-proof." With no work to do, plenty of money to draw, and no need to pay for anything, truly we civil servants lead happy lives.

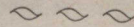
FOR THE THIRD DIVISION.

An announcement is promised very shortly by the Commissioners as to the result of the recent and prolonged discussion of the Third Division situation. An amendment of some sort in the regulations may be confidently expected. We predict at the least a modification in the standard of the examination. In any case, let the statement be soon.



MR. MACOUN'S RETURN.

Our readers will have noticed in the press the thrilling account of the adventures of Mr. J. M. Macoun, Asst. Dom. Botanist, and his party, in the wilds of Hudson Bay. Shipwreck, and a journey of 1,250 miles over the snows of the wilderness, with the thermometer registering as low as 51 deg. below zero make up the tale. Mr. Macoun, however, lost none of his new and valuable specimens of the flora and fauna of the west coast of the Canadian Mediterranean, and his expedition will have most important scientific results. In the new life that the opening of Hudson Bay to commerce will inaugurate in that vast region, civil servants are the pioneers and the pathfinders.



THE WATER SUPPLY.

Ottawa water is at the moment very bad. Over two hundred cases of typhoid attest it. No sensible person is drinking Ottawa tap water. Yet between the hours of nine and five, four thousand employees of the government have nothing but tap water to drink. Good business as well as humanity demands that a proper supply of drinking water be arranged for in the Departments without delay.