

THE CIVILIAN

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A New Year's Announcement.

The Civilian has always been frank in supposing that the service at large has an interest in its internal economy and method of management. We desire, for an additional reason, in this our closing issue of the year, to lay before our readers certain plans and ideas we are entertaining for the year that is dawning.

The Civilian began with a staff of four,—all editors; but for the past year its affairs have been very largely in the hands of two,—an editor and a business manager. Now that it is over, we do not mind saying that it has been a strenuous time, for *The Civilian* was not exactly light on its feet when the year began. We are not prepared to say that we have made all that was possible of the opportunity. Still we have achieved one thing — we know now that a civil service journal may be a feasible proposition financially. *The Civilian* is no longer in the position of wondering whether or how long it can last. Under proper conditions it can last forever.

Let no one suppose that there lurks anything of self-satisfaction in this last remark. We hasten to say that we regard the present situation merely as a foundation to build upon. *The Civilian* has got to be a bigger, better paper. And it is going to be. And the question is, how to make it so.

The answer to this question suggested by *The Civilian* itself, out of the depths of its experience and out of its knowledge of the field to be covered, is: by enlisting men in its service. If the further question arises, on what basis? we answer as follows:

We take it that the civil service paper of the future, as in the past, is to be edited and controlled by civil servants. That, we believe, to be the safest form it can assume. On that basis then we suggest that this paper become to all intents and purposes the property of a large flexible quasi-cooperative organization of civil servants, which shall include anyone and everyone who can demonstrate that he can perform some *bona fide* service to the paper, whether in the business or contributing line.

The present management offer themselves as trustees to this larger scheme, which amounts to nothing more nor less than a call for practical assistance. They never have regarded themselves as a close corporation, though during the experimental stage which has lasted up to the present they could not very well press upon anyone an invitation to share in a possible defeat. But now they feel certain that the first need of the paper is the active participation in its work of a sufficient number of their fellow civil servants, and that once granted such assistance nothing will prevent *The Civilian* from achieving a pronounced success. This work cannot be done gratuitously, and it need not. The journal should pay those who make it, in proportion to what each has done to make it — printers, managers, circulation clerks, editors, contributors *pro rata*. Like several journals and magazines of our acquaintance, devoted to causes, (e.g., *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, sup-