

agree with him. "Optimist" is a creation of the Civil Service Act of 1908. And so, Mr. Editor, you agree with him. Well, you are welcome to your opinion, and so it seems Civil Servants need expect no help or sympathy from "The Free Press" in this struggle to meet the ever increasing high cost of living.

You must consider, Mr. Editor, that the case of the Civil Servant is entirely different to that of the trade unionist. The trade unionist has only his employers to deal with, which is probably a small corporation or joint stock company. To them alone they needs must go to obtain redress and increase in wages. Often, however, they cannot obtain this redress without sympathy from the public, or by bringing the conciliation board into the conflict. They also have the privilege of going on a strike, which Civil Servants have not.

Civil Servants have no particular employers. Their employers are the people of Canada, represented at Ottawa by the members and senators of the whole Dominion. One's deputy minister or minister, or even the whole Cabinet, cannot increase their wages, nor very much redress their wrongs. The members of Parliament must be consulted and their sympathy and sense of justice obtained. These men, which are the public, must be educated and made familiar with the wrongs, apparent or otherwise, under which the Civil Servants suffer before redress can be ob-

tained, and there is no other method known to familiarize the public with this or any other subject than the public press. Hence a good deal of matter is appearing in the press on the subject of the Civil Servants' position.

How otherwise could the members of Parliament become sympathetic to the cries of the Civil Servants except by reading of them in the columns of the papers? Not from the blue books. We only trust, Mr. Editor, that you, too, will open your columns to the Civil Servant, and thus help him in his sore plight.

J. A. M.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.

The writer of the above letter has no justification for his statement that "The Free Press is unsympathetic to the demands of the Civil Servants. This paper has merely questioned the wisdom of airing their complaints in the daily newspapers. "The Free Press columns have been always open to Civil Servants as to everybody else, and "The Free Press has on numerous occasions urged that the treatment of its servants by the Government was not by any means what it should be. The great majority of the men in the public service are hard-working, conscientious, and able officials, but unfortunately in too many instances their work goes unrecognized either financially or otherwise.—Editor F. P.

SONG FROM "RUY BLAS."

(Translated by W. S. H. Bernard.)

A quoi bon entendre
Les oiseaux des bois?
L'oiseau le plus tendre
Chante dans ta voix.

Que Dieu montre en voile
Les astres des cieux!
La plus pure étoile
Brille dans tes yeux.

Qu'avril renouvelle
Le jardin en fleur!
La fleur la plus belle
Fleurit dans ton cœur.

Cet oiseau de flamme
Cet astre du jour,
Cette fleur de l'âme,
S'appelle l'Amour.

I heed not the birds
In the trees that rejoice;
No music so sweet
As the sound of thy voice.

Let God show in space
The stars of the sky:
Stars far more pure
Shine in thine eye.

Let April display
Her flowers most rare:
There is in thine heart
A flower more fair.

The bird in the tree,
The star up above,
The bloom in thy heart,
All tell me of Love.