

sphere of its influence, but within that sphere it must rule or be ruled. In Emersonian phrase it must "be" and not "seem."

It is perfectly within the expedient and the justifiable, as a matter of reason, that a part only of the civil service should be brought at first under the system of reformed appointments. But within that part, whether it be great or small, the system itself must be a real system. If it is not, then the whole falls to the ground. The line is either straight or it isn't, and the strength of a chain is always that of its weakest link.

Clause 21 of the act of 1908 is the sole point at which attack is now possible on the principle of independent appointments to the civil service. No appointment has ever been made under that heading, and there is accordingly no reason to believe that it constitutes even the most insignificant breach in the wall. But if it prove to be such, then the rest of that painfully constructed edifice is all in vain. A Commission to safeguard the appointments to the lowest clerkships only,—clerkships, which, thus circumscribed, lead, patently, to no future worthy the name—will be a small affair indeed.

It is all a matter of clear understanding. The government has repeatedly declared its attitude as to the future administration of the inside service. It will not with one hand neutralize what it has established with the other. Upon the commissioners devolves the duty — perhaps first in its importance now that the act comes actually into operation — of showing in the clear way that is possible what in the final analysis will follow a loose interpretation of Clause 21.

"If rats and maggots end us," says Whitman, "then alarum! for we are betrayed." So, if at the end

of a painful journey through the ranks of the classes, the civil servant come at length to the door which is labelled "pull," wherein is there any hope for the man who has only his work and his brains? Plainly none, and if he is wise from the beginning he will never seek an occupation, which, barred by triple brass at the entrance, ends only in a *cul-de-sac*. And that will be a piteous fate for civil service reform.

CONFEDERATION.

As already stated in THE CIVILIAN the work of organizing a federation of all the civil servants in Canada is quietly going on. THE CIVILIAN has shown its interest in this matter by distributing all over Canada several thousand complimentary copies in pamphlet form of a provisional constitution, which was published in a previous issue. In the desire to conduct a department devoted exclusively to the outside service, THE CIVILIAN has sent out notices to those associations already in existence inviting contributions to its pages, which it is to be hoped will be forthcoming. The federation has a wide field of labor to enter upon and should serve to stimulate a public interest in the rehabilitation and reform of the entire civil service of Canada.

HAMMER-TONGS.

BY MERCUTIO.

Never heard of Hammer-Tongs?
 You're a stranger in the city I observe;
 For the story of our wrongs,
 And the glory of our songs,
 Are as nothing to the splendour of his nerve.
 Well, we cannot all be great;
 Fame has small room on her slate