

including the employees of the Inter-colonial Railway, the permanent force of the Militia Dept., and such like bodies, a personnel of, say, 25,000 men and women. The Printing Bureau in Ottawa, for instance, has a staff of nearly 1,000, whose names do not appear in the C. S. List. For the purposes of our proposal, the ordinary militia could with reason be considered an intimate part of our working governmental system. *The Civilian* suggests a CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY of this great body performing the task of the development and defence of Canada. 1,000 acre farms, as many as required, may be established in different parts of Canada. Our butter, eggs and poultry would not go to cold storage. Flour, sugar, etc., would be bought in 50 carload lots and distributed from convenient centres in each province. The best anthracite coal would be bought from the best mines of Pennsylvania or we'd know the reason why. This all means work.

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There is another phase of the question which means more work. It is necessary to have a Federal Co-operative Act. So far attempts to bring about this result have been defeated, presumably by the efforts of "millionaires and middlemen." Such a bill may pass next session of Parliament or it may not. A mammoth petition to the government from the consumers of the country would be "good politics" and where can we find better machinery to do this than in the public service. We have agents everywhere. A score of typewriters working on this proposition would be a cheering obligato to the crescendo music of the Labour Department index numbers. President Smith of the C. S. Federation lives in Windsor. He reads *The Civilian*. Let us hear from Mr. Smith. As we have remarked, it all means work, which is the crowning glory of the cause. It is now a matter of getting busy or going hungry.

MERIT VS. SPOILS.

As will be seen by reference to an article elsewhere in this issue, entitled "Trouble at Washington," a bill has recently passed the House of Representatives of the United States which has spread consternation throughout the ranks of the friends of the merit system and good government generally in that country. The bill is called Appropriation Bill No. 24023, section 5 whereof practically throws the federal service of the District of Columbia back into the spoils system, from which it was rescued in 1883. The section referred to limits the tenure of office to five years. 25,000 clerkships are involved in the proposal, and if the change is extended to those outside of Washington, 250,000 officials will be affected. Friends of reform and efficiency are up in arms and the Senate will be showered with petitions setting out arguments for defeating the obnoxious section. These opponents of the measure confess disappointment at the failure of their continuous campaign of education on the subject of continuity of office under the merit system, and they claim that the item passed the House without consideration as to its full and awful significance.

To *The Civilian* it seems that one strong argument might be used against the proposal with great effect. Under the provisions of this section 5, "the terms of present employees shall cease and determine on June 30th, 1917," and their re-appointment shall be subject to all the machinations of political patronage. The Hon. Mr. Foster stated the other day that the doling out of the comparatively insignificant patronage of Ottawa was "Hell." The term becomes gruesome when we are reminded that the Washington service is eight times greater numerically. *Hell multiplied by eight.* If those opposing the bill could adequately present to the Senators some concep-