

their requirements, or that another branch be compelled to use an inferior article. These and many other considerations both for and against a Purchasing Commission no doubt will be fully discussed by the Government Authorities, but it would seem reasonable to judge that any step which the Government may take which will effectually do away with the possibility of patronage in purchasing supplies, which may or may not be existant, will be a great advantage in the efficiency of the service.

W. L.

Athletics.

The Civil Service Bowling League of Ottawa, will close on February 8th, with Interior No. 1 winners for the third year in succession.

The fight for second place lies between the Mint and Railways and Canals, with the money makers as the most likely winners of the place.

J. H. Stewart of the Railways and Canals is still leading in the high average closely pressed by H. L. Edwards of Interior No. 1.

J. A. Armstrong of the Mint has a strangle hold on the high single with 269, likewise R. S. Raby on the high cross alley with 627.

The real sensation of the second half is the East Block team. Tailenders for the past two years, they are now fighting it out for a place in the first division with Customs.

In all 137 bowlers have taken part, many new phenoms having turned up who give great promise of bowling ability.

It is probable that next year the Civil Service bowlers will own and operate alleys of their own. The idea being to erect a very substantial club house with membership open to the entire service.

The bowlers are holding a smoker and boxing tournament at St. Pat-

rick's Hall shortly. They are worthy of the support of all the service.

THE LATE JOHN SMITH.

In the last five months, the Parliamentary library has lost no less than two of the members of its staff through death. Both clerks were highly valued and their loss will be felt for a long time to come.

After nearly a year of the most intense suffering, the late John Smith passed peacefully away on the thirteenth of January, leaving behind him the memory of a gentleman of the highest type, and a thinker, ever broad-minded and sympathetic in his outlook upon life.

Mr. Smith was born in Paisley, Scotland, in 1841. There he received his earlier education, and eventually completed his course of studies at Edinburgh.

Two years before Confederation, he came to Canada, and in 1867, married Miss Martha Martin, of Ottawa, who pre-deceased him four years ago.

For a considerable period, Mr. Smith was accountant for the Citizen, giving his health not a thought, he laboured incessantly, and as a result, seriously undermined his strength.

He went to the library in 1885, where he remained till his death.

In religion, Mr. Smith was a Unitarian, being an active member of the "Church of Our Father." He was also a prominent member of Carleton Lodge for twenty years or more and did much good work in the interest of the Oddfellows.

A painstaking, conscientious worker, a student first and foremost and a courteous, kindly gentleman, he made many friends who highly respected his sterling worth and valued much his loyal friendship. With them, *The Civilian* joins in expressing to the bereaved family, of five sons and one daughter, its sincerest sympathy.