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## A Job or a Career.

The name "office seeker" is applied practically to only one class of seekers for office—those who desire places of emolument in the public service. There is something enterprising.

To try to qualify oneself for employment by a railway company, by a business house or by a professional firm is regarded as being in itself honorable, and, when the quest is pursued with diligence the seeker for an engagement is commended by public opinion for his enterprise and perseverance. But when a man seeks public employment it seems to be assumed that he desires only a safe retreat from the hurly-burly of active life, and when he succeeds in gaining the office he seeks he is spoken of not as having earned the reward of industry and ability but of having enjoyed far more luck than should be monopolized by one man. He is spoken of not as having entered upon a career but as having been given a permanent and easy job. This, of course is not the way all people regard each and every government appointment, but the very term of "office seeker" and the opprobrium that it expresses prove that there exists exactly the feeling here indicated.

But he must be a very unimpressive and unimaginative person who, being appointed to a position in the public service, regards himself only as the holder of an office. As a matter of fact he has only placed his foot on the first rung of a ladder of achievement the top whereof reaches wholly beyond his vision. He has not secured a job; he has entered upon a career.

Unfortunately, the public service and those who are engaged in it are not governed by opinion formed in the service itself as by this vicious outside opinion, which persists in regarding the person ambitious for a public place as an "office seeker" and the successful office seeker as only the holder of a government job. Like master, like man, and so the sentiment of the people in this matter is reflected in the Parliament that represents the people, and is inflicted—that is the only way to speak of it—upon the civil service.

The growing complexity of governmental business is helping to change the point of view from which the people regard those who engage in that business. If mails are irregular, if people are poisoned with bad food, if the country is overrun with noxious weeds or insect pests, the people concerned are forced to realize that there is a failure on the part of some public servants to perform the duty they are paid to perform. The essential unreasonableness of expecting mere "office seekers" or the mere holders of government jobs to cope with the problems of practical government in a social system as complex as ours cannot but suggest itself to people who do any thinking at all. And, as to the others, they are jolted out of their indifference and inattention by the fact that it is a sheer natural impossibility to get good work out of incapable or essentially dishonest people—you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

It is because lesson after lesson of this practical kind has been taught the people of Canada that we are now