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A Growing Profession.

One of the points made emphatic in the address of Mr. Lockyer, I. S. O., of the Australian service, which we published some weeks ago, was the tendency toward expansion characteristic of the civil service as a profession in these later days, not alone as a result of national growth but of the increasing breadth of the activities brought under government supervision. This is one of the bright sides of the civil service career — meaning as it does the enhancement of prestige and the multiplication of opportunities — and we need subscribe to no far-reaching theories of government to wish it good speed.

The United States government has just issued a blue book which shows a total of 370,065 persons on the federal pay-rolls. Such a figure standing by itself means nothing in particular. But when it is said that the last official register, published two years ago, contained 306,141 names, the latest figure becomes decidedly meaningful. Here is an increase for two years of about 64,000 names, or some 20 per cent. Speaking of the increasing power and expanding activities of the United States government, what more striking demonstration can be wanted than this?

The figures for the Canadian service are in their way even more startling. Seven years ago the number of officials coming under the C. S. Superannuation and Retirement Acts (a rough and ready measure) was slightly over 4,000. To-day the number is over 7,500 — an increase of 87%.

One of the editors of *The Civilian* had a conversation the other day with a leading doctor of Ottawa who quite incidentally brought forward an idea of interest from this point of view. Said he, in reply to some casual reference to the service and its problems: "We doctors, you know, expect to belong to the civil service one day soon, and have, therefore, a personal interest in civil service reform, quite apart from our present interest in it as good citizens. Medicine is more and more becoming the science of the prevention of disease. When we have discovered a few more anti-toxins it will be almost entirely so. Now, preventive measures, such as the purification of water supplies, the sanitation of streets and dwellings, the stamping out of plagues and epidemics, etc., must perforce be handled on a comprehensive scale. Brought to its perfection, this method of treatment makes health a matter primarily of the public interest, to be safeguarded by no authority less omnipresent than the state itself. Thus, the days of the private doctor will soon be gone forever. Even China is a step ahead of us on this point, for in China they pay their doctors only while they are well, and shut off the funds when they fall ill."

The above struck us at the time with perhaps an exaggerated sense of novelty. But, happening on that very night in the bosom of our family to alight upon the Ladies' Home Journal,—that fascinating mine of information for the mere man,—we read the following: