

noon and in order to get a meeting in the evening passes have to be arranged for with the commissioner of police. The Savings and Loan Society will now need committee room accommodation, and it seems almost essential that some room should be set aside for the convenience of these committee meetings. The executive of the association is the proper body to provide for this much-felt want. While the lunch-room idea may take time to develop, there is a crying need for a committee room for the use of civil service organizations.

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

From the Toronto Star.

There are cases where valor is the better part of discretion, and where boldness is prudence. Civil service reform is one of them. The Government can make no mistake in going very far in this direction. The measure should be so thorough and far-reaching as to lift it above all other legislation of the session, compel public attention, and mark an epoch in the history of the country.

Canada is emerging from the position of a colony into the position of a nation. It must have a national equipment, a civil service that will carry on the work of the nation with energy and efficiency, enabling the nation to use national resources to the best advantage for the good of all the people. Patronage is a clog, a hindrance to efficiency, and must be discarded for that reason. The nation must be free to choose the best men for its service.

Measures of this kind will enhance the real power and influence of a Ministry. The Ministry should be free to conceive and carry out large designs for the benefit of the whole country. It should be free from the worry incident to routine and detail. The gains that may come through the

distribution of patronage are small and contemptible compared with those which result from the increase of ministerial and parliamentary efficiency. If we are to make good our boast that Canada is a nation we must have the administrative and legislative equipment of a nation.

### CO-OPERATIVE PURCHASE OF COAL BY CIVIL SERVANTS.

The committee having in hand the management of the civil service co-operative coal purchase beg to submit to those interested the following report on progress:

The total amount deposited up to August 25th was in the neighborhood of \$4,700. As previously stated, orders are sent off only as the fund accumulates. In all, thirteen cars have now been ordered. Of these, six have been received and unloaded. Of those who paid their entire bill in advance, residents in the central and eastern portions of city have been served thus far, and Sandy Hill and other eastern districts are now receiving deliveries. Those who are paying by instalments will, of course, be required to accept deliveries as payments are made. Experience has proved that about thirty days, more or less, must be allowed from the time of placing orders before delivery is possible.

Perhaps the most important and satisfactory news of the past ten days in this connection has had reference to the quality of the coal. The first cars to be received were of "stove" size. Samples taken at random were submitted to Mr. H. A. Leverin, of the Department of Mines, for analysis and the following result was shown:

Moisture...	0.50
Volatile matter...	5.50
Fixed carbon...	88.82
Ash ...	5.18

Appended to this was the statement: "Analysis shows coal to be of