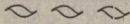


beyond hope,—but “that is another story.”



INSIDE SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

Conditions and regulations regarding examinations for entrance to and promotion in the inside service are evidently not as satisfactory as they might be. A representative of *The Civilian* visited St. George's parish hall during the progress of the recent tests and heard much dissatisfaction expressed by the candidates. Some of the principal complaints were,—

(1) The question papers cover a wider range than is described in the curriculum issued by the Civil Service Commission. Candidates are thus required to extend their studies beyond the defined limits in order to be prepared for any question that may be asked. This is particularly the case in the subjects of literature and history.

(2) Some question papers, while coming within the bounds set by the curriculum, contain several questions the proper answering of which requires so much writing that it is difficult to get all the work done in the prescribed time, and the candidate, having to write at high speed all the time, has no opportunity to revise or take any deliberate care in the preparation of his answer.

(3) The time-table, as arranged, in many cases puts two or more of the heaviest papers on one day's program. The candidate, weary in mind and body from three hours steady labor on one subject, is in no fit condition to do his best work in a three-hours' trial on a fresh subject. Discussing this point, one of Ottawa's foremost and most experienced educationists agreed with the contention of the candidates.

(4) It is unfair to judge penmanship from a composition paper. The candidate, while endeavouring to do his best possible work in composi-

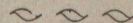
tion, should not be distracted by the constant necessity of slow and careful writing.

(5) The light in the examination rooms is poor.

(6) The tables are uneven and shaky and the chairs unsuitable. Wobbling tables had to be steadied by wedges of wood or pieces of folded blotting-paper placed under the legs. The candidate whose table was in such position that he could brace it against the wall was a lucky man.

(7) Paper and ink were both poor. It was alleged that the paper in the answer-books was so porous that the thin ink spread on it in unsightly blots, harassing the candidates and detracting from the appearance of their work and their chances of good marks for penmanship.

Anyone who has ever written on an examination of the general character of those provided for civil service candidates can readily understand that all the matters above referred to are of importance. They affect the opportunity and well-being of those industrious members of the service who seek to improve their status by taking the educational tests, and also those numerous outsiders who, by qualifying at these examinations, will soon be our fellow civil servants. *The Civilian* gives them publicity in the hope that the persons having these matters in charge will investigate the complaints and, if they find them well-founded, speedily inaugurate the necessary reforms.



THE OTTAWA CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

Are Ottawa civil servants willing to allow the co-operative store, launched by their association and now brought to the very threshold of permanent success, to pass out of the realm of a civil service undertaking and become identified with the general public? It will be a sad sight to many if they do. That four