

these only prove the rule—has his position not only for bad times but for good.

Take the imaginary cases of two men of equal qualifications and equally desirous now of entering the Civil Service. Only one can be given a place. The one chosen feels glad and the other sorry. So far so good.

Hard times, especially when reinforced by war, last for long, but they do not last forever. By the time the next boom is on, the civil servant will have been pounded and worn into his place and will be unfit for any outside employment. His savings will be small, or perhaps, so to say, they may be on the wrong side of the ledger. The other man will have lived somehow, and may even have prospered, for fortunes are made in bad times as well as in good—even a plague means prosperity for somebody.

Under good-time conditions, the non-civil servant will find open to him all the opportunities of a wonderful world—for with all the new inventions and methods of the years just ahead of us the production of wealth will be unimaginably great. On the other hand the civil servant will be a mere cog in the governmental machine at the centre of the great mechanism of economic and social development. He will look out through impassable barriers upon opportunities easily available to others.

It is simply a question of the average as against the factors that make up the average. We of the Civil Service are protected from the dangers of life. But, on the other hand, we must agree to be debarred from its opportunities.

The practical point involved is this: There is no infallible guide in fixing for us the conditions of work and wages. The danger at this time is that we shall allow those conditions to be fixed with a view solely to the advantageousness of our present hard-times position. It would be equally unfair, of course, to have in mind only the

other extreme. There is a line of justice and reason in this whole matter, and that is what is to be sought. But let us show more intelligence and honest self-regard than to sell our lives for wages that are fitting only for a few of our younger years.

ORGANIZATION.

The National Federation of Post Office Clerks in the United States attribute to organization in numerical strength the fact that they have achieved results during the past eight years. Finding the political ear deaf to reasonable appeals, the Post Office clerks affiliated in 1907 with the American Federation of Labour. The pleas of the Post Office officials received a more appreciative reception from the politicians when voiced by many tongues instead of by a few. Consequently legislative progress was made since 1907, such as:

- (1) Higher salary classification law.
- (2) Eight-hour law.
- (3) Restoration of the right of petition.
- (4) Weekly rest law.
- (5) Compensation for injury law.

Under modern Democracy ordinary civilians have to fight to obtain rights as strenuously as John Hampton had to fight against Autocracy to defeat wrongs. Magna Charta, the Petition of Rights and the Bill of Rights are said to have established British liberty, freedom, etc. Not so. Under the popular system of government rights and liberties are recognized by many of our political representatives only when the arguments in favour of same are advanced by a preponderating number of voices or votes. God speed the day when a political leader will arise who will place the telescope to his blind eye, and refuse to see the signals of electoral strategy. In the meantime there is but one thing to do,—organization and yet more or-