

standings between the member of Parliament and his constituents, oiling generally the political mechanism. In every town in Canada there are the political workers really few in number and it is by these people that nominations and elections of candidates for Parliament are determined. If the old type of worker has lost heart and drops out who will take his place? Will the man of means and leisure who lives in a big house and has a big motor car take the time and trouble to attend committee meetings,

look in on this or that voter who has a grievance, consult with other men who have no selfish ends to serve, and act with them for what is for the well-being of the country? Will the leading lawyer, banker, physician and merchant do it? Will the clergy preach from their pulpits about the duty of the good man to take part in politics and to spend time and, if need be, money for the good of the state? If, as we bury the bad old system we have a vital hope that there has been born something better we

may well thank God and take courage. That something will mean unselfish interest in public affairs by the average man, the spirit of sacrifice on the part of our leading citizens, and constant alertness to check the evil doer. If we have these things reform will work and effect endless good. If we have them not old evils will endure in spite of the new machinery and the last state of the country will not be any better than the first.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

—CSFC—

## The Civil Service Commission Explains

A public meeting to hear the Board's Experts on the current work of re-classification

THE most noteworthy event thus far in the carrying out of the policy of publicity declared for by the Civil Service Commissioners was the meeting of people connected with the Service held on the evening of Tuesday, September 17. This meeting will probably be regarded by future historians of Civil Service reform as marking a change in the attitude of the public and the Service toward each other.

The meeting was called by the Civil Service Commission with a view to explaining to Civil Servants exactly what is proposed in the pending re-organization, and, generally, the policy in administering the new law. The place of meeting was the present House of Commons chamber in the Victoria Memorial Museum building. Many who have had the bitter experience of seeing important discussions of their own affairs wholly neglected by Civil Servants, predicted that there would not be a large enough audience to fill the seats on the floor of the hall. These calamitous expectations were magnificently falsified. The place was jammed to the doors and hundreds were turned away unable to gain admittance at all. More than half the audience had to stand throughout the evening, and it was a fine testimony to the speakers and to those responsible for the meeting that, although the proceedings continued until after eleven o'clock, practically the whole assembly remained to the end.

Mr. Walter Todd, President of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa,

was present as honorary chairman, but owing to the fact that he has only partly recovered from a severe illness, he was unable personally to direct the meeting. This duty was taken over and very efficiently discharged by Mr. F. E. Drake, senior Vice-President of the Association.

The Civil Service Commissioners, Hon. W. J. Roche, M.D., chairman, and Messrs. LaRoche and Jameson, occupied places of honour, and beside them were the business men who are collecting information and advising in connection with the new classification of the Civil Service, Messrs. P. H. Myers, Fred. K. Telford and H. S. Dixon.

In a graceful and informative opening address, the chairman outlined the history of reform in the Civil Service of Canada and showed the need that existed for the passing of the new law that is now in force. He warned his hearers that it would not do to assume, even now, that patronage was dead, and urged that the movement against it should continue. "I fear," he said, "that many, even in the Civil Service who have been accustomed in the past to depend upon political influence for preferment for themselves, will be reluctant to give up their efforts in that direction. All kinds of influences are very apt to be brought to bear upon the Civil Service Commission. If we as Civil Servants are honest in our desire to see the merit system substituted for the patronage system, it behooves us to play the game fairly and refrain from using or attempting to use politi-

cal or other influence to obtain preferment. Much will depend upon the relationships established between the Commission and the Service at this early stage. A hostile or critical attitude on our part will not, I think, be conducive to those relations which should exist between the Service and the Commission which has our destinies so largely in its hands. On the other hand, I submit, an attitude of aloofness or unapproachableness on the part of the Commission will not assure the best results. It seems to me that in this meeting we have the evidence that the present Civil Service Commission purposes to start on the right track." He then went on to make suggestions—in effect to lay down rules—governing the questions to be put by the audience to the speakers. Personal questions, or those having a personal bearing, would not be expected. The audience should allow also for the fact that the information might not yet be at hand to answer some questions, or it might not be desirable to answer certain questions at this stage. He held out the hope that time might be found at this meeting after other matters were disposed of to deal with the salary question.

The Hon. Dr. Roche, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, was the first speaker called upon. He spoke briefly and with directness. The explanation of details, he said, he would leave to the visiting business experts. As to the engagement of those business men, he explained that complete information as to the Civil

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