

Messrs. Griffenhagen and Co., having obtained the necessary experience in the preparation of the swaddling clothes for Reclassification have been instructed to prepare the necessary habiliments for the arrival of his little brother Reorganization.

Altogether eight days have been deducted from the statutory holidays of civil servants without any corresponding increase in pay. As there are, after deducting the other holidays and Sundays, less than 285 full working days in the year this is equivalent to a reduction of about 3 per cent. in the salary. By way of contrast Mem-

bers of Parliament have increased their own salaries by 60 per cent.

The question of taxing civil servants' incomes and thus further reducing their salaries is the subject of legal action at present and the issue seems doubtful.

Civil service regulations continue to show an increasing veneration for red tape and a corresponding contempt for commonsense.

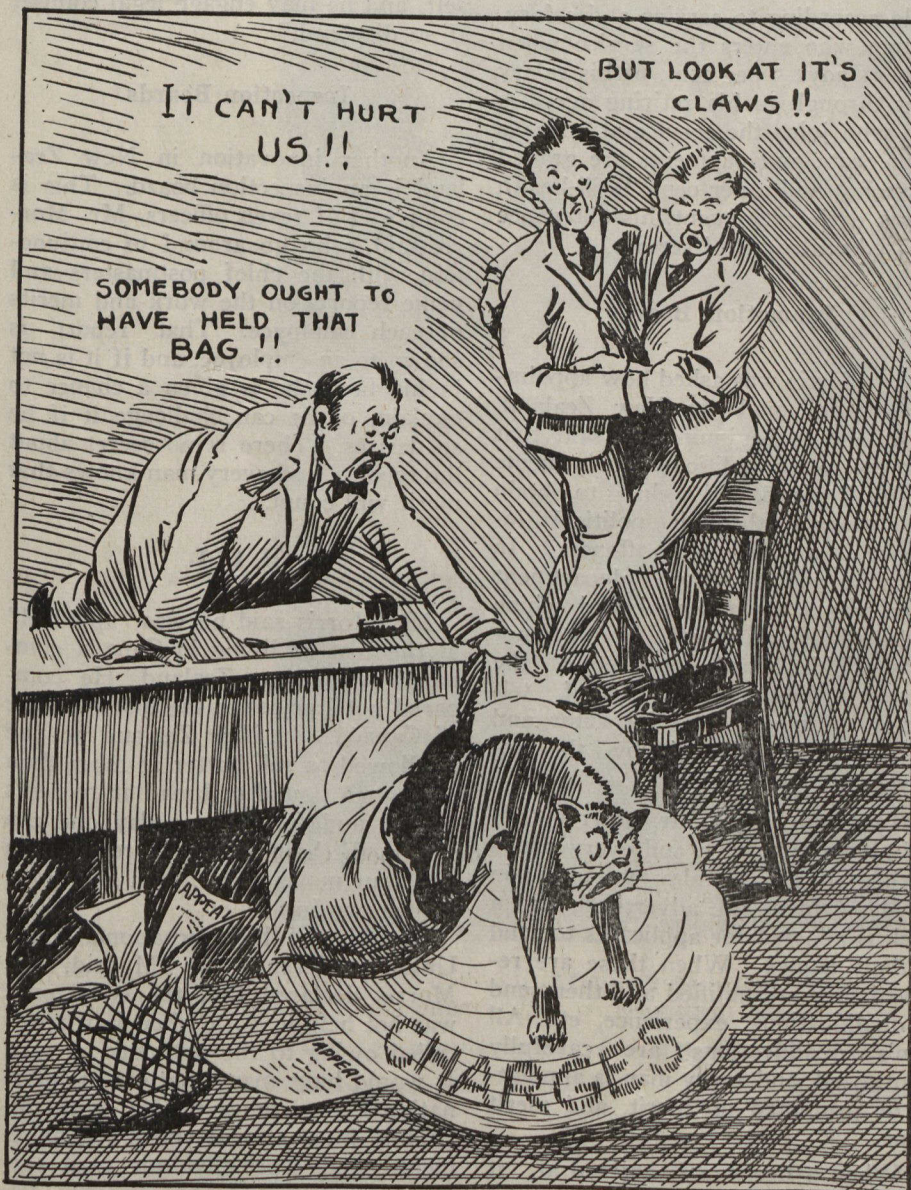
There are certain indications, however, that the worm has at length turned. The alliance with labor marks the first step on the path towards emancipation, but much more is necessary. So long as civil servants

content themselves with merely holding meetings and passing resolutions the government are apt to regard these as so much "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal". What is needed is the presence of someone on the floor of the House of Commons to champion their cause and to back it up with votes. It is from this point of view that the alliance with labor gives promise of useful results.

There are at least 16 large towns in Canada which return from one to six members to the House of Commons. If the labor party put forward a candidate in each of these constituencies he would be fairly certain to secure a large number of civil servants' votes. In this way the interests of the civil servants would be looked after indirectly and their grievances would certainly receive a more respectful hearing if the party espousing their cause was strong enough in numbers to threaten the defeat of the government by an adverse vote. A labor party in the House of Commons would of course have many other interests of their own to attend to besides seeing that the claims of civil servants were entitled to be treated with consideration.

At the present time labor does not seem to have a single representative in the Canadian House of Commons whereas in Great Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand the labor element forms a strong party in parliament. The next election may not be for years or it may come suddenly like a thief in the night, and it is a wise policy to be prepared beforehand for any eventualities that may arise. It does not require a prophet to foresee that the next election will be different from any that has ever been contested in Canada before. Besides the two historical parties there will be in addition the Farmers, the Great War Veterans and the Labor Associations all claiming attention, but what the final outcome will be no one can tell.

If any civil servants are faint-hearted or think that those of us who have allied ourselves with labor are on the down-grade — let them pray. To the others my advice would be "Be strong therefore and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines; quit you like men and fight."



THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG