

# THE CIVILIAN

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Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

**Ottawa, April 9th, 1909**

## A CANADIAN CIVIL SERVICE REFORM LEAGUE.

There is undoubtedly at the moment a stronger interest on the part of the public in the civil service and its improvement than at any previous time in Canadian history. As we recorded in a recent issue, the subject of civil service reform is now become matter for the popular address, and that before no less disinterested and dispassionate audiences than are furnished by several representative Canadian Clubs. From the academic to the practical is but a step; and the extracts from the Toronto News and the Canadian Courier, which we print elsewhere to-day, would show that

the step will in all probability be taken soon.

A journal of the service may be permitted a very genuine, if necessarily somewhat aloof, interest in a proposal like that of the News, namely, the immediate formation of a Civil Service Reform League in Canada. In fact, the suggestion was originally our very own. To say that such a matter is from one point of view the public's business, is not to deny that an organized body of men of common employment like the service should not take a very practical interest in it as well. In truth the chief reason why a civil servant may not advocate such a movement is one of expediency merely. The civil servant is an interested party: quite properly he will not be listened to. That, however, need not affect the intrinsic value of any suggestion he may make in this connection.

It is on this intrinsic basis only we would like here and now to put forward a further idea. Unquestionably the problem of getting a Civil Service Reform League on its feet is in the first instance the laborious and painful one of educating people to its need, and after that of enlisting their active co-operation. Then would follow, of course, the hundred and one difficulties which always attend the initial stages of organization. Men have their own businesses to attend to. Once going, it would be another story: if the thing were worth while it would attract. The Canadian Club movement itself furnishes an example. And speaking of Canadian Clubs may bring us to our point.

Why should not the Canadian Clubs take up the first and tentative work of organizing a Civil Service Reform League in Canada? Already they have lent themselves in many instances to the edu-