

fixed-income classes must soon begin to fall under improving tendencies."

All this is very learned and interesting. But the individual who is being crushed to death by these conditions, while the experts are theorizing, sees only one escape—an increase in wages. Fortunately for employees at large all but a very few have received this alleviation. In the case of every employer in this country but one, that means of escape has been provided. The exception is—yes—the Government of Canada, in the case of its 5,000 employees in the outside service who amid the epoch-making and absolutely revolutionizing changes of the past dozen years are refused year in and year out the treatment that is not refused by a single private employer with the bowels of a man.

CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

A number of Ottawa civil servants on presenting themselves to vote at the recent municipal elections were refused ballots on the ground that they did not pay income tax. Will someone please explain this action on other than a basis of sharp practice? Has not the question of the assessment of civil service incomes in Ottawa been settled for all practical purposes on a plan satisfactory to all? Is not the City of Ottawa about to receive the full tale of what is owing to it on this score? Why then should it adopt at this, as at almost every turn, a policy of pin-pricks towards the largest and best-paying body of employees it possesses? Contemplate in the mind's eye (if you have imagination) the handsprings this municipality would begin to throw if the government were to suggest moving with the star of empire westward a bit,—to, say, Winnipeg! *The Civilian* takes the occasion to congratulate Aldermen Caron, Baxter, Mac-

donald and Desjardins on their reelection, and Controller Hinchey and Ald. Campbell on their election, to their respective places in the council and board of control, where they will be able, as civil servants, to exert an influence for good in matters which affect the general relations of the city and the service.

At the Sign of the Wooden Leg.

Some Ancient History.

Do any of my readers remember Tom Kingrow,—Kingrow the champion checker player of Tippingham, in the old days when checkers was (or were) called draughts, when strict rules about interference were unknown and a fine strategic advantage in the double corner was often overcome by the simple expedient of kicking the board?

The people of Tippingham took great pride in Tom, on account both of the wonderful variety of his opening moves and the strength of his biceps which enabled him to look out for himself and other Tippinghammers in the argument that sometimes followed a sudden displacement of the wooden men. Draughts was a gentle name for the sport; it should have been called Blizzards.

Now, Popton was near Tippingham and hungered and thirsted after the championship which its neighbour held. How they yearned for Tom Kingrow! How they dreamed of the day when they might acquire him as a Poptonite, for on all their checker-boards was engraved the classic legend: "Delenda est Tippago," Tippago being the old Roman name for Tippingham. But Tom was loyal to his native burgh, wisely considering the half-crown a week he got as janitor of the Tippingham town hall and his percentage of the receipts at the "Rough