

# THE CIVILIAN

Devoted to the interests of the Civil Service of Canada.

Subscription \$1.00 a year ;  
Single copies 5 cents.

Advertising rates are graded according to position and space, and will be furnished upon application.

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P. O. Box 484, Ottawa.

Ottawa, Oct. 2, 1914

## SIR ROBERT BORDEN IN HALIFAX PLATFORM.

*A thorough and complete reformation of the laws relating to the Civil Service should be put into effect, so that future appointments shall be made by an independent commission acting upon the report of examiners after competitive examination. I am convinced that we shall perform a great public duty by establishing in this country that system which prevails in Great Britain, under which a member of Parliament has practically no voice in or control over any appointment to the Civil Service.*

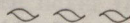
*To use the power of filling positions in the public service as a reward for party service and without regard to the character and capacity of the individual selected is a gross breach of a solemn public trust. A private trustee so dishonouring his office would be subject to punishment by the criminal law.*

## THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

The news items in today's Personals are certain to catch the eye of our friends of the Customs Service. Scores of appointments to the Preventive Service are announced, while the promotions are remarkable for their absence. The Post Office returns show up very favourably in comparison.

It has long been recognized that the Preventive Service as a part of our civil machinery is an abuse, and it is said that over 65% of all customs employees are of this class. If we are not incorrectly informed, this class of entrant enters without examination, and the new-comer often goes over the head of the old and faithful servant who entered under examination. Now, this recital of facts reads badly and savours strongly of injustice.

Now, it must not be assumed that the Honourable Dr. Reid is responsible for this system. Equally the late Mr. Pater-son must be exonerated from the charge of originating the system. It is enough for us that it does exist, and must be represented to the "powers that be" with clear and insistent statement and argument. We do not doubt for a moment that Dr. Reid will refuse to redeem the fair name of Canada from a palpable abuse, and the subject is hereby referred to the officers of the Federation, with the promise on our part to discuss the matter further in a later issue in connection with some other features of the Customs Service, which should be soberly and seriously produced for the Honourable Minister's consideration.



## CONGENIALITY IN MILITARY SERVICE.

The officers of the Federation, in endeavouring to make a "demonstration in force" in Ottawa, by obtaining an expression of willingness to perform military service, if the need arises, is not without many fine precedents. As mentioned in the last issue, Earl Kitchener recommended the enlistment of volunteers in congenial units. There may be among the great number of