

do more ample justice to the importance of this occasion. In the meantime, everyone will join us in wishing well of an organization which holds within it so many possibilities of good. As to the exact extent of these possibilities, it is unnecessary for the moment that all should see eye to eye; it is even possible that a few — a very, very few—may be unable to see them at all. That, therefore, must be left on the knees of the future., in the serene confidence that history will repeat itself and that what is demonstrably right in theory cannot be wrong in practice. What we ourselves would like to see in this connection—and we desire it simply because we are anxious to have the best use made of the opportunity — is a thorough and unequivocating discussion of every point of detail that may arise from time to time as the movement grows. The Evening Citizen of some days ago contained a letter from an anonymous civil servant who seemed from his action to feel that he could work better in his opposition to co-operation through the public press than through the medium of the accredited organizations of the service. He is mistaken, if he believes that: a sound argument will do its work best if presented on its merits to the men who are sitting in judgment; if unsound (in the present case it is so unsound that it is not worth wasting powder over) it can hope for no permanent gain by an appeal to prejudice and to the uneducated feeling of the community. We in the service are "all Tom Samson's bairns"; let us settle our differences of opinion among ourselves, with a view to the welfare both of the service and of the country, and so present a united and well fortified front to the common opponent—if opponent there be. Report recently had it that the Retailers' Association approached

the local Trades Council, which is at present engaged in organizing a co-operative association, with a request that civil servants should not be admitted to membership. If the statement is true, the Retailers' action was as foolish as it was ungracious. There is nothing but rapped knuckles for those who start that sort of game.

OFFICE HOURS.

The question of the time which civil servants have in the past and shall in the future devote to their official duties has been the topic for some comment in parliament. The office hours at present in practically all the departments are from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 or 4.30 p.m. Of course, as has been stated, some civil servants have been seen disporting themselves in games on the lawns soon after four o'clock in the summer months, but the proportion of clerks who are able to do so compared to the whole is very small. Evidence of this statement has been available during the winter to any member of parliament who might cast his eyes about the square between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., where in the three large blocks he would have found a large proportion of windows lighted up and the offices manned. In what manner and to what extent civil servants might fairly present their views in this regard has not yet been considered by the association.

It is related by a gentleman belonging to the British civil service that on one occasion the Post Office clerks of Great Britain presented their views to the ministry in opposition to the addition of one hour to the day's work without additional remun-