

THE CIVILIAN

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

Ottawa, Jan. 28th, 1910

WE ONLY ARE SURVIVED ALONE TO TELL THEE.

Readers of *The Civilian* will not have failed to observe in recent press despatches that yet another large corporation has organized and put in force a pension system for its employees. This corporation is the mammoth New York Central Railroad, including all affiliated or subsidiary lines, such as the Boston and Albany, the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, the Big Four, the Lake Shore, the Michigan Central and the Michigan Southern. Some 800 employees of the ages of 70 and upwards were pensioned off on January 4th last, and thus dismissed to honorable retirement as faithful workers in the vineyard who had earned their just reward. According to the Secretary of the Railroad's Board of Pensions, "the harness had to be cut off some of the old-timers"—not unnaturally. Following the secretary's equine simili-

tude a little further—happy, say we, the old horse who can nurse his collar galls in peace and plenty.

Remarking further upon this latest shining example of the triumph of right principles, we observe that men had need either to be very much above, or very much below, the level of the times to remain immune to the force of an idea such as this of pensioning. To be so far above the best of one's fellows is an attribute of the gods, to whom the wisdom of this world is as foolishness. As to those who are so much below the level of their times—"the rest is silence."

The Superannuation question, as it affects the service, may be summed up very briefly: A Civil Service Commission is invested with the duty of passing upon the fitness of persons entering the service. To what end? Clearly, to give the country an efficient public service. It is just as clear, however, that that is only one-half of the problem. Exit must be provided for and governed just as carefully as entrance, and for that the sole expedient is a Superannuation system, properly administered. Nature positively refuses to give any assurance that persons who pass ever so severe an examination will not become invalids or grow old like their stupider fellows.

If this be logic-chopping, then let us frankly abandon all pretence of reasoning and see whether the goddess of Whim and Caprice can do any better for us than she has done in the past.

CONCERNING EXAMINATION STANDARDS.

The serious difficulty which the C. S. Commissioners have encountered in recruiting for the Second Division is bound, if continued, to have one of two results — perhaps both. Either, in the first place, the initial salary must be raised so as to