

for a great number of years, and by both parties. Many glaring instances of the best positions being given to absolute novices have occurred, especially in Western Canada, and it was due to this bartering of Postmasterships, etc., to the highest bidder (in votes) that the Postal Clerks submitted the resolution to the Postmaster General for his consideration. They did not anticipate that such action on their part would bear immediate fruit, but fully expected that the Department would give some consideration to the subject.

Nearly two years have elapsed since this action was taken, yet to-day there is exactly the same thing occurring, viz.: politics before efficiency and long service. In the list of promotions for the month of October, contained in the issue of *The Civilian* of December 25th, we find the following: Regina, L. J. G. Labelle, to Assistant Postmaster; also in the list of resignations, H. F. Kerr, Regina.

The following is an extract from a letter forwarded by the Postal Clerks' Association of Western Canada to the Postmaster General, dated October 7th:—

"I understand, through information received, that the position of Assistant Postmaster at Regina is now vacant. We trust that you will give due consideration to the requests made by this Association, from time to time, that such positions be filled by a qualified man from the staff of the office where such vacancy occurs, or, if no person in such office be deemed to hold the necessary qualifications, then from some other office in Western Canada. I am sure that you will find many capable men in the West fully qualified to hold such a position."

Now, to deal with the manner in which this position was filled, both as regards the appointment of Mr.

Labelle, recently appointed, and Mr. Kerr, ex-Assistant Postmaster,—

Mr. Kerr was brought into the Service without any previous postal experience, at a salary of \$1,600.00 per annum. To qualify him for the duties pertaining to his new position he was given three weeks' training in the post office at Winnipeg. Those familiar with post office routine may judge the qualifications of Mr. Kerr for this position, even after his three weeks' training. Mr. Labelle received his first permanent appointment in the Service on October 1st, 1909, and resigned in 1913. The following is a copy of a letter from the Regina Branch of the P. C. A. of W. C., addressed to the Postmaster General, dealing with the appointment of Mr. Labelle:—

"Dear Sir,—The members of the above branch of the Postal Clerks' Association of Western Canada wish to register a very strong protest against the methods of the Department used in the appointing of an Assistant Postmaster to this office; Mr. Leo J. Labelle, the appointee,—having already apparently severed his connection with the Service, under the conditions given—being appointed over the head of the Acting Assistant, who had every reason to expect,—also the promise of the Postmaster's recommendation,—that he would receive the appointment.

"Mr. Leo J. Labelle was granted three weeks' holiday, with pay, commencing March 20th, 1913, and six months' leave of absence, commencing April 10, 1913, after which he resigned and was paid his retirement allowance. So late as May 8th, 1914, he was granted two months' pay, thus apparently closing his career with the Civil Service.

"It would appear from the foregoing that it is far better for a clerk to resign, and come back into the Service again, as in this case there is a decided gain, for, after leaving the Service, and proving that he is