

## BOWLING IN OTTAWA.

The alley bowlers of the Ottawa service held a very successful "smoker," combined with boxing competitions, particulars of which have been already published in the press. The entertainment was intended as the closing feature of the regular season. In this connection, *The Civilian* has received a valuable contribution on the subject by way of valedictory. The writer deplors the waning interest, and offers some valuable advice. The ideas advanced are as follows:—

The C. S. Bowling League, having completed the regular season schedule, have started on a post-season series minus three teams, the players desiring to continue being drafted to other teams. While this arrangement may work out satisfactorily for the remainder of this season, it is evident that if the league is to continue the success it promised, the departmental basis for arranging the different teams must go.

It is only necessary to review the history of C. S. bowling to note a serious falling off in the interest in the game. From the largest league in Canada, comprising fourteen teams with 198 active bowlers, the league, as now composed, consists of seven teams with probably not more than 50 interested, and further if the present arrangement is continued it is more than likely that two more teams will drop out, which must of necessity force the league out of existence.

The reason for this lack of interest is apparent to those who follow the game, viz., lack of competition. For the past four seasons, at the very least, eight of the teams comprising the league had no chance whatever from the beginning of becoming champions or near-champions, and any fair-minded person who has ever taken part in any sport or pastime, knows the difficulty to be met in sustaining interest or arousing enthusiasm in a team or individual that is hopelessly beaten from the first.

When the civil service first decided to go in for bowling, it was more or less of an experiment, and the departmental basis was adopted, solely for getting members interested and to ascertain the bowling strength of the service. It is not believed that it was ever intended that the departmental method of selecting teams was to become a fixture. Different rules have been adopted from year to year to more evenly balance the different teams, but these have proven more or less of a failure in so far as attaining the result desired. It would seem, therefore, that the remedy is not in changing the rules of the game itself, but to dis-

tribute the players, so that the teams would be more evenly balanced. It has been suggested that a committee be formed before the beginning of another season and, from records in past years, select twelve or fourteen names of the leading bowlers as captains, and from the same records allot the remaining players according to averages. This method would ensure keen competition throughout the entire season, and a corresponding interest in the outcome. It is said by one who has given the matter considerable thought that it is possible to place fourteen teams in the league, evenly balanced, without disturbing to any great extent the present personnel of the teams. Bowling is a good game, and furnishes recreation for scores of civil servants that have no other form of amusement, and should be encouraged, but,—the handwriting is on the wall. It would be well for the officers of the league to take note.

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It is noted that the rink selected by the Executive of the Eastern Lawn Bowling Association to represent Eastern Canada with the Canadian lawn bowlers on a tour of England and Scotland the coming season, includes two civil servants, viz., Mr. R. R. Farrow, Asst. Commissioner of Customs, who was unanimously selected as skip of the rink, and Mr. Wm. A. Warne, Chief Trade Statistician of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Both are keen, experienced bowlers, and the rink that takes their measure will know that they have been through a game.

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Interesting departmental games are taking place in Ottawa on frequent occasions and much pleasure is derived. The C. S. Hockey League goes merrily along. Among other events of this kind may be mentioned a hockey game between the Third and Fourth floors of the Printing Bureau, the latter winning 11 to 6. An interesting event was a curling match between members of Parliament and the civil service on Ash Wednesday, the permanent service defeating the Commons by 8 shots. A return game on Saturday last was won by the members.

Governor Sulzer of New York made a clean sweep of the Dix Civil Service Commission. On January 1 the Governor appointed as members of the State Commission Messrs. Jacob Neu of Brooklyn, Dr. Meyer Wolff of New York City, and James A. Lavery of Poughkeepsie. So far as is known, none of the new commissioners has ever had any experience in civil service matters and all are known to have been active in politics at various times.