

be left to individual initiative. If it is, what is everybody's business will probably remain nobody's business. At the same time it is equally clear that the Association cannot directly undertake co-operative enterprises. Its membership has been brought together on different grounds, and would not necessarily be co-extensive with that of any co-operative venture. But it has no less clearly a duty in a matter that promises so much for the service, and which stands so greatly in need of proper direction. In our view, a strong committee of the executive, charged with the duty primarily of making a full investigation of the subject of co-operation, and of its possibilities locally, for the benefit of the executive, and secondarily of using its influence in whatever way might prove feasible toward directing events along their proper channels, would represent the only logical solution of the difficulty. Such a committee might render invaluable service by directing attention to opportunities and calling for workers therein, or on the other hand by checking by the mere weight of its adverse opinion any venture that seemed precipitate or out of consonance with the real nature of the occasion. It is a matter of no small pride to THE CIVILIAN that it was able to perform precisely the function herein recommended for the Loan and Savings Society, by, first, inquiring into the need for such a society, second, by directing publicity to the matter and to the results of its inquiry, and obtaining the views of the service thereon, and third, by calling a meeting for final enquiry and action, the result being that the society gradually took form and was launched upon what we all believe will prove a successful and beneficent career. Why the Association should not perform a similar office as occasion demands is what we fail to perceive.

THE CIVILIAN has collected some miscellaneous information on the subject of co-operation, and will publish

from time to time during the next few months a selection of such items as may seem of most practical value to the Ottawa case. We may conclude with a sample:

The eighth quarterly report and balance sheet of the British Canadian Co-operative Society, Limited, of Glace Bay, N.S., for the quarter ended July 2, 1908, showed sales amounting to \$6,241.79, an increase of \$1,002.44 over the preceding quarter and of \$1,267.68 over the corresponding quarter of last year. The present membership numbers 101. Share and loan capital amount to \$3,002.92. The assets are \$5,790.41 and the liabilities \$5,126.22. The balance for the quarter allowed a dividend of 10 per cent. on members' purchases and of 5 per cent. on non-members' purchases, with a balance \$55.13 to be carried over to the next quarter. This Association is composed of miners living in and about a town of less than 10,000 inhabitants. The civil service in Ottawa would on the same basis maintain a business of at least ten times the extent. We will return to this subject of the Glace Bay store when space is more at command.

A POSER.

A group of half a dozen physicists, all eminent; a sheet of paper; a pencil. With the latter one of the group draws a pulley, a cord over the pulley, a tree, a bough from which the pulley hangs. To one end of the cord is attached a stone; to the other end clings a monkey. The stone balances the monkey. If the monkey proceeds to climb up the cord, what will happen? Will the stone rise or fall? Heated discussion; break-up of the party; no result. Can any reader help to settle this question?