

ments under columns 5 and 6 are not just as "chaste as ice as white as snow" in respect of competition as is set down in black and white. The Commissioners have sat on it as "crown-ers," however, and call it competition. What part the patronage system plays in promotions is known only to the commissioners and they won't tell.

From the best information we can obtain apart from all other considerations, the Ottawa C. S. Association has just cause to ask of the commissioners if they consider it is the merit system they have in Ottawa or what degree of merit they enjoy. The federation is also bound in self-respect and self-protection to ask the government before transferring their "affections" from spoils to merit, whether it is to a house of cards or a house of clay they are coming; whether they will get the square deal all the time or only some of the time.

A CRY FOR HELP.

A public spirited man is a public asset. Mr. C. A. Magrath is one of those who take their responsibilities of citizenship seriously. It will be recalled that it is to him we are indebted for the contest which brought forth the essay written by Mr. C. A. Bowman which we published in January, as suggestive of a system to expel the ogre of political patronage which damns every public service in the known world. An article entitled "The Civil Service," from the pen of Mr. Magrath appears in the April University magazine should be read by every student of public service affairs. Hereunder we reproduce excerpts:—

We have several public departments claiming administrative rights in the waters of the country, but no cooperation among the technical men. They are like so many loose threads needing some central authority to bind them into a strong cord.

* * *

There is need to look ahead. Slum life,

for instance, is beginning to get a foothold in this country. Are we going to leave that problem to the intermittent attacks of philanthropists, or will the State do its duty? What about the growth of corporation? Corporations we need, and with them we must be fair. Some of them will be unfair to us,—that is the human characteristic,—unless we have men specially trained to watch their activities, so as to enable us to keep them in proper control.

* * *

Every business organization is crying out for system and better system, and yet the greatest business organization in the country, the country itself, with vast undeveloped wealth, is the least organized, with departments duplicating work, and total absence of proper coordination.

* * *

I think the suggestion of a permanent commission, which might also be termed a consulting board (available for use by the Cabinet or any individual minister) is the simplest, and one which in no way need clash with departmental authority.

* * *

I consider such a board would not serve the purpose for which it would be created unless it possessed men highly trained in: (a) business administration; (b) engineering; (c) public health; (d) statistics.

A WORD OF KIND SYMPATHY

As *The Civilian* forms are being made up, a friend telephones advice of the terrible disaster that has befallen the family of our good friend and brother Mr. S. J. Willoughby of the Accountant's Branch of the Interior Dept. Time does not permit more than a feeble but most sincere word of sympathy to Mr. Willoughby and his family. Mr. Willoughby was one of the earliest friends of civil service organization, having represented his department on the executive of the Ottawa Association in the first year of its existence and in following years. He may be sure of the deepest sympathy of all who know him, or of him.