

and to those who look to him for protection. The "hit or miss" style of approaching one man a dozen times and not seeing another at all will be abandoned. Buttons for rejected and exempted men will assist the work materially.

The men of the Ottawa Civil Service will come within the scope of the new system in the Capital. There have been a fair number of enlistments from the Service during the last six weeks, but the rate of enlistment which followed bad methods, threats and abuse early in the summer has, to some extent, passed away, and, by the determination of deputy heads and chiefs of branches in many departments, the appointment of outside slackers to the vacancies left by civil servants who join the army have ceased. The Government could greatly encourage enlistment in the Service by passing an order-in-council in this regard. The evidence that there are a number of young men, fit for the army, hanging around Ottawa in the expectation of getting the Civil Service jobs of men who go to the front is one of the greatest possible deterrents to enlisting. If the work of a man who wants to don the khaki cannot be done by a female "temporary" or by a returned soldier, then that man should be forbidden to enlist and given a badge or button signifying the fact. When the Service is fully protected from the inroads of the outside slacker, recruiting among its members will greatly improve.

A PRESIDENT ELOQUENT.

The speech of Robert S. White, President of the Civil Service Federation of Canada, before the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissioners, was one of the notable events of the recent convention. Mr. White spoke with the fire and eloquence for which he was noted when he sat in

the Commons, twenty odd years ago, and he handled the patronage system in a way that rejoiced the hearts of all lovers of reform in his audience. As one who dispensed patronage in past times, who secured his present position through patronage, and who has administered a large service cursed with the patronage handicap, Mr. White spoke with authority such as few men can claim. He scorned platitudes and evasions, handled facts and conditions as he knows them to exist and pictured in striking fashion that state of weakness in the Canadian public service which nothing but a complete merit system of administration can remedy. He likewise took up the matter of public employment of returned soldiers and demonstrated the dangers that lie in a sentimental rather than a business-like handling of the problem. President White, by his bold declaration of a most progressive policy, has demonstrated his fitness for the proud position of Canada's premier civil servant. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when he will have opportunity to represent the Federation before the Government and impress upon the ministers those truths of which he is so able an exponent.

The "T. R." Button is slow in making its appearance. It is to be hoped that the delay will not be prolonged.

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"No slackers need apply" is a good motto. A good many departmental officials have adopted it. Ministers and the Civil Service Commission should follow suit.

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The number of "Our Boys" reported wounded is still disproportionate to the list of dead. Scores of wounded men have not been reported to *The Civilian*. The editors should not have to beg for casualty reports.

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Correspondents are still favouring