

THE CIVILIAN

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THE EDITORS,
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Communications on any subject of interest
to the Civil Service are invited and will
receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, June 13, 1913

TO THE OUTSIDE DIVISION.

The Civilian regrets a dearth of news from points outside of Ottawa. The editors have written specially to friends in the Outside Service in regard to this important feature. In order to treat of matters and points of view elsewhere than in Ottawa, material and data are required. The editors desire subscribers and all readers of *The Civilian*, especially members of the executive and delegates of the federation to assist in making *The Civilian* the journal of the whole family of civil servants and not of any particular portion. Not infrequently do we hear that we pay too much attention to the Ottawa service. If such is the case, the discrimination is not intentional and is much regretted for we have received much kindness from the Outside Division. Geography favours Ottawa, but we respectfully ask our friends abroad to help us to overcome any partiality that may appear in our news columns.

NOISY OFFICES.

"Noise begets noise" is the title of a recent newspaper article, in which the employee of a large concern describes the material benefits obtained by removing the office staff from a noisy to a quiet location.

This is a lesson that the Government has to learn. The accomplishment of fully one-half of the civil servants in Ottawa is limited by the unfavourable surroundings in which they work, and similar conditions exist in government offices at other points. Bad light and bad ventilation have often been referred to. Noise is hardly less important. Some branches are located in buildings where a continuous roar of street traffic assails the clerks. Others, located in buildings having quiet surroundings, are hampered by their own noise. Numerous typewriters and adding-machines are often located in one room, to the discomfort of the clerks, the deterioration of their health and the reduction of amount and accuracy of their work. The writer is informed that, in one branch, several girls have recently broken down and become nervous wrecks largely, if not entirely, because of the deafening clatter amid which they were required to work.

This is not right. The Government is losing by such conditions just as much as the civil servants are. Sick leave, defective work and restricted output cost the country huge sums every year. A little care and common sense would undoubtedly reduce these losses. It is suggested that the Government could take a hint from the telegraph companies. Where separate rooms cannot be provided for typewriters and adding-machines, have small semi-compartments constructed for each machine and its operator. He or she would thus be relieved to a very large extent of the noise created by other machines. Some of the buildings, located on noisy up-town streets are