

Board of Hearing Secretary Makes Serious Charges

The *Citizen* has received a copy of an open letter to the Prime Minister, from Mr. George Bull, who until his suspension last week, following notice of his resignation, was secretary of the Civil Service Board of Hearing. The letter, under date of January 1, reads as follows:—

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen,
Ottawa.

Sir:—

On Tuesday evening last I was instructed by the Civil Service Commission, through its secretary, to hand over the keys of my office to a Mr. Payne and also that the alternative was open to me to consent to have my house searched by this gentleman, or to have a Royal Canadian policeman accompany me with a search warrant for documents that were assumed to be missing from that part of the Civil Service Commission known as the Board of Hearing.

My wife's house was thrown wide open and searched, and, of course, nothing was found. The following day I was suspended, although I had already handed in my resignation to date from March 1st.

Three months ago I refused to have anything further to do with the Board of Hearing or its chairman owing to its methods of administration. One month ago I tendered my resignation from the Civil Service Commission from March 1st, 1921, to take up work in opposition to a protective tariff.

Now, Mr. Meighen, was it really Board of Hearing documents — all of which are in the Hunter Building — Commissioner Jameson wanted, or was it the papers in preparation against your tariff policy that were to be purloined? I have since been informed that the reason for the search of my house was to secure the evidence necessary to refute grave charges brought by Federal Employees' Union 66 against the Board of Hearing.

This is the second attempt on the part of you and your officials to "frame" me, as it is termed in your circles.

Let me refresh your memory. In 1915-1918 I was engaged on investigational work. I learned and knew too much and every conceivable charge was brought against me. It became so bad I had to send my wife and family to Winnipeg in the summer of 1919. Strange to say she no sooner arrived than her brother's house, where she was staying, was brutally searched by the R. N. W. Mounted Police, and he — one of four brothers who had all served the Empire overseas, two with Botha, one with the Imperials, and one with the Fort Garry Horse — was thrown into jail, without cause, and released soon after. Mr. Meighen, were you in search of evidence against labor then, or looking for my reports?

Only yesterday information was sent me that every attempt was being made to obtain damaging evidence, but really, Mr.

Meighen, there isn't any. I have come to the conclusion that these attacks on myself are because I know that:

1.—The affairs of the civil service are in such a condition that it is impossible to do anything with them.

2.—The recent reorganization of the Printing Bureau is not as satisfactory as the experts claim, that there has been work done which requires immediate investigation, and that there has not been, or will not be, any such saving as has been reported.

3.—There has been political influence used in the work of the Board of Hearing.

4.—There is being built up in Canada by the work of the gentlemen from Chicago such a bureaucracy as has never yet been equalled in the world.

5.—Thousands of dollars are being wasted in supposed reorganizations, which cannot ever materialize.

6.—Increases out of all proportion are being given to the favored few by the Board of Hearing, while the lower grades of the service suffer.

After reading this you, whose desire for "purity in public life" is so well known, you who have also stated that no scandal has ever arisen during your governance of Canada, will no doubt take steps to have these matters remedied.

GEORGE E. BULL.

Ottawa, January 1, 1921.

"Quit You Like Men and Fight"

By A. Philistine.

While the various organizations of civil servants that have been formed to promote their interests are deserving of every encouragement in their work it must be admitted with regret that the results so far achieved are comparatively easily measured. It could scarcely have been otherwise with the machinery at their disposal, which had not the necessary driving force or leverage to remove the obstacles encountered. The Magna Charta of the service, namely the Civil Service Act of 1918, turns out in practice to be for the most part a mockery and a veritable scrap of paper. Its first-born offspring — Re-classification — is a misshapen monstrosity and it still seems very doubt-

ful whether the expert surgeons who have been called in to operate can preserve its life, or whether a coroner may yet be necessary.

From a review of civil service conditions during the last five years the conclusion seems evident that civil servants are not even holding their own. The successive regulations that have been drafted in connection with the Bonus are enough "to make not only the angels but the very jackasses weep". There are well-authenticated cases of persons in the service who returned the Bonus rather than submit to humiliating conditions such as might have been associated with the funds of some charitable institution. Questions as to whether the female

members of your family use face-powder or hair-dye may be of great interest to those of an inquisitive turn of mind but serve to recall the story of a famous Cambridge mathematician who on occasions imbibed not wisely but too well. During one of these bouts his fellow students presented to him the following problem, "How many sticks does it take to make a magpie's nest provided that you have obtained your breakfast in the morning"? After due consideration he came to the conclusion that the facts were irrelevant!

The Minister of Personnel who was a useful person, at least in theory, has been quietly dropped overboard.