

times to do so. Wherever a body of men are engaged in a common task, a community of interest suggests a convenient means of communication in the shape of a publication. *The Civilian* has demonstrated its usefulness to the various organizations of the service from the federation itself to the latest product of effort for unity in the service. Moreover, information has been gleaned and published in these columns which is of paramount importance to the government in settling its schemes of administration. An illustration of this appears elsewhere in this issue, in the article on the subject of superannuation reprinted from the pages of the Colonial Office Journal, giving a history of the course of superannuation in the British Isles from its earliest inception. In these respects and in other respects, only relatively less significant, *The Civilian* has proven the usefulness of its vocation.

We have endeavoured to remind the service of the intimate nature of the relationship existing between it and Canada. During the first forty years of the existence of the federal government, many anomalies crept into the service. Some of these seemed inexplicable and some almost insuperable as far as immediate remedy is concerned. The awakening of the government to a realization of past neglect in respect of a scientifically managed public service happened scarcely four years ago and much good has already been accomplished. The government is lending a credent ear to representations made on behalf of the service at large. The service is well organized for the purpose of supplying both information and ideas that will advance the cause of happiness, harmony and efficiency, and to this cause *The Civilian* will endeavour, as in the past, to contribute its humble share.

TORONTO CUSTOMS NOTES.

Mr. John Slean, for twenty years in the Customs house and an efficient civil servant died last Friday evening at his home in Toronto, after a few weeks' illness. Mr. Slean was Past District Master of the Orange Order of Centre Toronto, and a Past Master of William Johnston L. O. L. No. 127. He was fifty-six years old. The widow, two sons, and a daughter survive. His eldest son is a member of the Customs staff. Mr. Slean it is understood carried an insurance of \$1,000 in the Orange Order, and \$2,000 in the Independent Order of Foresters. His death is the fourth that has occurred among members of the staff within a year.

* * *

Mr. Charles W. Baxter, one of the oldest and most popular members of the staff, expects to leave shortly on a trip to the old country, in the hope that his health, which has not been of the most ruggid kind lately, may be improved. The best wishes of his friends in Toronto follow him.

Mr. Herd. J. Laville, formerly secretary to the collector, has been transferred to Ottawa. He will be missed here, particularly in connection with the ball team.

* * *

Mr. B. Anderson, one of the oldest members of the staff, has been laid up for a few days with an attack of erysipilas in his face. His many friends will be pleased to know that he is able to resume his duties.

* * *

Mr. Robt. Millburn, another old member of the staff, has been on the sick list for nearly three months, and it is to be regretted that very little improvement is reported.

Mr. J. J. Davidson, dry goods appraiser, was an uncle of the young man (son-in-law of the late C. M. Hays) who lost his life in the Titanic disaster.