



### PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICES

IF civil service reform is good at Ottawa, it should be good in all the provinces. That civil service reform is necessary at Ottawa, is admitted by both political parties, therefore there should be no political objection to a similar reform in any province. All that is required is some body of patriotic citizens in each province to take up the question and agitate it. If left to themselves the provincial governments will probably avoid the issue.

The civil service staffs in the provinces are small, and in the main the services seem well filled by men of integrity and ability. There is no doubt, however, that if these services were put upon an independent and permanent basis, it would be much more satisfactory to those already in the service. Moreover, it would ensure that all future appointees are well qualified for the work upon which they are entering. It would throw the provincial civil services open to educated men who are willing and anxious to enter upon a civil service career.

These, however, are but minor advantages. The great gain would be the elimination of patronage and place-seeking. At least one-half of the time of the present provincial cabinet ministers is taken up with discussion as to who shall get such and such contracts and who such and such positions. So much is this the case, that these men have little energy left for the framing and explaining of public policies and for the preparation of legislation. Further, the crowd of greedy party-workers howling continually at their heels for jobs and positions makes them think that their respective parties are more interested in patronage than in good government and progressive legislation.

Even if no better men were secured for the civil service under an independent commission, the formation of such in each of the nine provinces would be a great gain. The lives of conscientious members of the legislatures would be made much more tolerable, and the member whose election is due to patronage, real or prospective, would be eliminated. Both members and ministers would be relieved of much that is burdensome, degrading and unnecessary. The patronage system has its effect on provincial politics just as it had its effect on Dominion politics.

### IS BESETTING A CRIME?

IT was expected that the Privy Council would this month give a decision as to whether "besetting" or "picketing" by a trades union during a strike was illegal and whether a trades union was liable for damages done to a business by their interference.

An action was brought in 1902 by the Metallic Roofing Company of Toronto against certain members of Local Union No. 30 Sheet Metal Workers and against the International Union for interference with their business as the result of a strike. The Metallic Roofing Company also asked for a perpetual injunction against picketing and other conduct which goes with that practice. The plaintiffs secured from Mr. Justice MacMahon and a special jury a verdict for \$7,500 and an injunction. The Divisional Court of Ontario upheld the judgment. The Court of Appeal upheld the damages but struck out the injunction. On an appeal to the Privy Council, a new trial has been ordered on the ground of misdirection at the trial. Thus neither side gets a decision which is of any permanent value.

It will be remembered that Judge Hardy, in a recent Brantford case, held that besetting was not criminal unless compulsion was used. Mr. Justice Mathers, in a Winnipeg case, held that members of a plumbers' union could be enjoined from besetting or picketing a shop and if they caused the owner loss they were liable for the damages.

In a recent case in Lynn, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts decided that an injunction would lie in such a case and went farther than the Winnipeg decision in deciding that union men could not legally combine and order a strike because of some

individual grievance only. In another case, the United States District Court of Illinois decided that a walking delegate who arranged a boycott of the Wakefield Manufacturing Company, which was using various kinds of union men in their regular employ to put up a new building and which would not force these men to join the local carpenters' union temporarily, was fined. The judge stated that "the defendants had no more right to go to the place of business of the plaintiff and demand that he employ a certain kind of labour than they had to go in and take his goods."

The decisions are thus in a somewhat chaotic condition though inclining to condemn combinations to force employers to do what they will not do willingly. A trades union which attempts in any way to force the hand of an employer is running considerable risks and the guilty union is liable to be mulcted for damages for such conduct. If the Privy Council had rendered a clear decision in the matter, either for or against the unions, it would have cleared the air. Unfortunately, this has not been done and the question is left in its former unsatisfactory condition.

### AN EXALTED PERSONAGE

THE list of distinguished guests entertained at the Citadel, Quebec, as given in the press of last week must have made many Canadians wonder if there were at any other period in the nation's history a list of equal significance, associated with a Dominion celebration. Assuredly, the City of Quebec will remember her three-hundredth birthday, as an assembly honoured by three great nations.

Among the citadel guests is one, distinguished both by position and personality, the Premier Duke of Great Britain and Ireland, Henry Fitzalan Howard, known as His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk. There is no name on the rolls of the British aristocracy which has been more prominent in the changes of government and dynasty than that of Howard. In old Saxon times, when the Witan represented the rude wisdom of the island government, the name of Howard was known in primitive council. Through the troubled Wars of the Roses and the dominance of stubborn Tudors the strength of Howard of Norfolk was a force to be reckoned with, even by royal will. Queen Elizabeth feared nothing more than a possible alliance between the Premier Duke and the fair Mary, Queen of Scots. Down to the present, the head of this great house has been one of the leading English members of the Roman Catholic Church and the present distinguished holder of the title is a devout adherent of that faith. It is owing to this fact, no doubt, that he now visits Canada, since the memory of Champlain is associated with the early coming to Quebec of French missionaries.

The Duke of Norfolk for many years was regarded as a recluse, devoting himself after the death of his wife to the care of a crippled son in whose behalf he visited several famous shrines. For some years after the son's death he was plunged in melancholy, but he finally married again and rejoicings over the birth of an heir to the dukedom were held but two months ago. His Grace and the Duchess of Norfolk are known throughout the kingdom as devoted to their historic church and as given to deeds of sincere charity, both of them avoiding the world of fashion and display. Such a nobleman is a specimen of aristocracy, in the best and Greek sense of that much-soiled word.

### THE RETIRING EARL ROBERTS.

IT is to be hoped that Toronto citizens will not kill the Hero of Kandahar with kindness. Lord Roberts has intimated to Montreal and Toronto that he has no desire for fuss and feathers during his visits to these Canadian cities. He would much prefer a quiet meeting with the veterans to any parade before the public. Toronto has lost its control once or twice on the occasion of civic receptions and come dangerously near doing injury to the hero whom it professed to welcome. A Field Marshal is not usually desirous