

tain amount of rowing by all the other Indians, great things were expected and hopes ran high, especially among the large number of rowers who thought that the marksmen should make little work of the Brown Indians across the river. Soon then much shouting was heard from the crowd in the canoe urging the bowmen to do better and shoot harder. But lo! the bowmen worked until the sweat poured from off them and they were the mark of the opposing forces so that great credit was due to them, but few of their arrows went home and then only the lighter and consequently smaller of their arrows. So the bowmen at last looked around as did those at the helm to see where the trouble was, and lo! they found that those who were supposed to be doing the rowing of the canoe were so busy shouting greater efforts to those at the bow, that they had forgotten all about the rowing. Then did they all realize that it was not the fault of the bowmen but themselves for not rowing better that caused the canoe to stay in much the same place from where it was impossible to get at the Brown tribe on the distant bank.

Then, with one accord, all began to work instead of shouting. The brave men at the bows kept shooting, the chiefs at the helm kept guiding, and also the others all rowed so that, in a very little while, the canoe was so close to the shore where were the Brown Indians that the bowmen were able to easily cause these men to take notice of them. Then was a consultation held as none wanted to badly hurt the other and matters were fixed up satisfactorily between them.

FROM OTHER SOURCES.

The Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada, at its recent convention in Regina, went on record as favouring the abolition of the patronage system in the Civil Service. These earnest men realize that there is a long, hard fight before them, but to all appearances they are fully determined to begin activity against the system as soon as the war comes to a close.

The elimination of the "spoils system" would seem at first sight to be a very simple matter, since practically everybody realizes and admits that the injustices of the system are most deplorable. The real difficulty lies in the fact that the system itself is merely a loose mass made up of the generally well-meaning acts of a great many individuals. For instance, the clerks themselves, who are unanimous in their desire to eliminate the system, are yet human enough to expect and to make use of the influence of their friends. The politician, in many cases, secures the appointment of his friends who come to him

for help, for the simple reason that he does not know any other eligibles.

The struggle over the spoils system in the United States lasted for sixty years—from 1836 to 1896. We venture to say that during that time the majority of the men who were responsible for the evils of the system were perfectly upright and had the best interests of the country at heart, but were practically compelled to add their bit to the sum total of iniquity. Jefferson, Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Benton—all the foremost statesmen of the first half of the century—went on record as condemning and deploring the spoils system in the strongest terms.

Acute conditions, not theories, give rise to reforms. In the assassination of President Garfield in 1882 the country found the necessary stimulus for decisive action against the inefficient, expensive and extravagant, and in many cases corrupt, Civil Service. A law passed by Congress in 1883 was the first great step toward Civil Service reform. A system of competitive examinations, later improved and elaborated, has brought the Civil Service of the United States to a very laudable state of efficiency.

Are we Canadians going to spend sixty years, and martyr some of our great men, in order to establish a little thing like a system of examinations? It may be worth such a price, but such a method of going about it would not reflect credit upon the intelligence of our people.—"The Evening Province," Regina.

MATTER OF OPINION.

"Mary!"

Father's voice rolled down the stairs and into the dim and silent parlor.

"Yes, papa, dear."

"Ask that young man if he has the time."

A moment of silence.

"Yes, George has his watch with him."

"Then ask him what is the time."

"He says it is 11.48, papa."

"Then ask him if he doesn't think it about bedtime."

Another moment of silence.

"He says, papa," the silvery voice announced, impersonally, "he says that he rarely goes to bed before 1, but it seems to him that it is a matter of personal preference merely, and that if he were in your place he would go now if he felt sleepy."