

## Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.

### Kind Words.

Monsieur,

Ci-inclus, bon de poste de \$2.00 en paiement de mon abonnement au "Civilian" à septembre 1913.

Veuillez croire que je recevrai toujours avec plaisir ce journal qui m'intéresse beaucoup.

Votre tout dévoué,  
L. H. AUGER,

Trois-Rivières, 25 août 1913.

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### The Cooperative Store.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Mr. Owens somewhat misstates the views expressed in my recent letter regarding the store membership. Those of us who differ from him on this point do not value "control" of the store by civil servants, *per se*, at a straw's worth. And the whole opposition to the divorce of the store from the service was on grounds of expediency, and of expediency ("dividends" if you like) alone.

As a matter of theory, pure and simple, cooperative membership may be as broad as the universe. As a matter of practice, a cooperative undertaking works out easiest when it is based upon a distinct class-consciousness. That is what cooperation is: the utilization of the spirit of association and comradeship to business ends. Its first practical concern is the creation of that spirit.

What our movement needs now is not so much a wider field, as the occupation (that is, the education) of the field we already have. If your membership lacks the cooperative understanding and unity aforesaid, (as ours does) how can you expect dividends? They come from no other source in a cooperative association, just as in a joint stock concern they come from no other source but the capital you put in. Every manual on cooperation insists again and again that a young and struggling association can scarcely spend too much money and effort on education—education in the broad principles of cooperation as a social movement, as well as in the particular opportunity. It is a laborious matter, but it is an unavoidable part of the game, in the same way that getting people to subscribe money for shares is an unavoidable part of the joint stock promoter's game. It is at its easiest in a compact mass like the Ottawa service,

where we have the good-will and promised assistance of all the other organizations.

Sporadic organization by self-appointed volunteers (which Mr. Owens hints at) will not fill the bill. We need a carefully-planned campaign—on the meaning of co-operation, its history, methods, etc., as well as for the recruiting of members—throughout the length and breadth of the service, designed to bring us an accession of true cooperators—not mere dividend-hunters, critical from the outset, with us today and away tomorrow on the first petty grievance or rival bargain sale; but members who are in on principle, and who know that the promotion of the cooperative principle will surely bring success.

A few weeks' effort of this kind would, I feel sure, prove more fruitful than any enlargement of the membership clause without it—and in that statement alone lies the basis of our recent discussion. It has not been a discussion of whether on general principles the membership of a cooperative concern should be limited or unlimited, but a discussion of what at the present time our own particular association had best in the first instance do to increase the number of its members and the amount of their purchases.

If Mr. Owens, who is one of our Directors, will give a lead in this matter there are many of us who will follow.—R. H. COATS.

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### Is our Shorthand Degenerating? A Suggestion to the C.S. Commission.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*—

Dear Sirs:—The centenary of the birth of Sir Isaac Pitman, the inventor of phonography, was officially celebrated with great enthusiasm in London on the 23rd May and on the following day in Bath, his birth-place.

Sir Isaac Pitman's system of phonography is recognized as the National Standard of practice by experts throughout the British Empire and the United States; also to be scientifically superior to every other system and capable of greater efficiency as a working shorthand.

There were seven international contests arranged in the United States between the years 1906 and 1912 in which eight of the winners used Isaac Pitman's system and three used systems founded upon his. The average gross speed per