

The Stranger Among Us

Just lately a somewhat general complaint has been made that new-comers to the Civil Service at Ottawa find it difficult to make friends, and consequently are experiencing the unhappy loneliness of a stranger in a strange land. That such an experience should be the misfortune of anyone is regrettable and especially so since the women of the Service have their own club rooms.

The progenitors of the club have always had the desire that the club should serve all the women of the Service, and if their organization hasn't been perfect enough to successfully carry out this object, that has been their misfortune rather than their fault. The work that produced the club was all voluntary and the thought and energy that have kept it running have been supplied by the women who have a vision beyond their own small interests. The club has a paid superintendent and a chaperon, whose duties are to look after the members and their friends when they are in the club; but the administration of the club's affairs is carried on by the members, who, in assuming office, are willing to relinquish their own recreation in order to provide it for other people and so carry out one of the original ideas which led to its formation.

When it is considered that all of this work must be done in the evenings; that the Service embraces a great number and variety of women; that the officers while supposedly on the Hill are really scattered over a large area; that in the Service as elsewhere there are many who are temperamentally opposed to any kind of club work, that some people rather pride themselves on minding their own business to the extent of knowing nothing (and caring less?) of the people they work next, it is not to be wondered at that the advisory council and the Women's Branch have a huge task in trying to reach all the women of the Service who not only could benefit by the use of the club but would benefit the club by their ideas and enthusiasms.

In no sense is the club exclusive. The membership is open to any woman who draws her salary from the government treasury, pays a fee of five dollars, and complies with the rules. So long as the club is there to be used as the members desire, there is no reason why anyone should feel lonely and strange in the Service.

It is hardly likely that this will meet the eye of the stranger, but you who do see it make use of it to help her. You may be a stranger yourself some day.

What the British Women are Doing

The Federation of Women Civil Servants recently organized the Equality Procession in order to rally the forces of professional women in support of the demand for equality of pay and of opportunity and to keep the question before the public eye. With a keen eye for effect, and a realization of the value in propaganda of any kind of an appeal to the artistic sense of the community, a colour scheme had been arranged for the numerous sections of the Civil Service and other contingents of women employed in national concerns, which earned for the demonstration the name of the "Rainbow Procession". Hundreds of pennants and streamers in a great variety of colours marked off the various sections of marchers, and mottoes of all kinds announced the reasons for the demonstration. "Women ask a fair field and no favour", "One Job, One Wage". The contingents joined up in Hyde Park and proceeded, headed by a standard-bearer and accompanied by three bands, from Marble Arch through Oxford street, Holborn, Chancery lane, Strand and Kingsway to Kingsway Hall, where a mass meeting was addressed by Lady Rhondda, and representatives of the various organizations declared the determination of the women to pursue their claim to equal treatment and status.

The National Federation of Women Teachers were in strong force, and Miss Agnes Dawson gave a stirring account of the fight for equal pay for equal work at present being carried on in connection with the revision of salaries undertaken by the Burnham Committee.

No Scramble for Government Jobs

According to the *Border Cities Era*, of Windsor, returned soldiers are not breaking any limbs to get to the place where they issue application forms for men desiring to become employees of the Government, and particularly on the postal staff. Many men even when assigned to positions take one look at the salary attached to the office and immediately turn down the offer. "We did our bit for a low salary and now if they want us they will have to pay more money; they cannot get any man who has been overseas to peddle mail or collect customs fees for \$100 a month, — no, they will have to offer something better than office boy's wages", is the way one veteran puts it. Because they worked for Canada for four and a half years on an income that would barely buy the real necessities of life, they expect that their salaries now shall be sufficient to enable them to enjoy the comforts to which they are justly entitled.

PROSPEROUS

Thirty-nine new members were accepted by the Civil Service Mutual Benefit Society during the first six months of 1920. Of these, twenty-three took the limit of \$500 insurance and sixteen took the \$250 policies. Twenty-one old members who had been carrying the \$250 policies took out second policies for like amounts. The total amount of new policies issued was \$20,750.

The Society is carrying on a quiet educational propaganda in the Ottawa service, placing cards of inquiry in the hands of non-members and circulating the last annual report. Anyone who desires information regarding the Society and who has not received an inquiry card should write or 'phone to Mr. W. J. Lynch, I.S.O., chief of the Patent Office.

The abolition of privilege will make "Getting a Living" easy for all and thus put the merit incentive in control of human actions.—(The Equitist.)

BROCKVILLE P. O. CLERKS

At a meeting of the Brockville branch of the Dominion Postal Clerks' Association, held on March 30, officers were elected as follows: — President, J. G. McLennan; secretary, A. Wooding; treasurer, J. Simpson; executive committee, G. Robinson, G. O'Hara, J. Simpson, W. Singleton, J. Simpson was elected chairman of the finance committee. A. Wooding presented a report of the Dominion convention held at Ottawa, which he attended as a delegate of the local branch.

Total disbursements by banking and stock broking firms in the financial district of New York for salary bonuses in the past year, including Christmas gifts, have been estimated at \$25,000,000. It is estimated that 100 banks and trust companies will distribute from 20 to 60 per cent in salary bonuses for the year. Between 300 and 500 stock exchange firms and other dealers in stocks and securities also have made liberal allotments to their employees. The average gratuity of these institutions in the course of the year is said to be 50 per cent including the Christmas bonus.