

The secret of this stifling of the ambitions of the civil servants was that certain officers of Ottawa militia units who expected to secure good appointments in the overseas forces wanted the Civil Service kept an open field for recruiting. They knew that, for fifty years, civil servants had been the life of every military organization in the city, and that they could be relied upon to actively support overseas units,—if no Civil Service corps was formed. A Civil Service organization had to be prevented,—and the preventive measures were skilfully planned and successfully carried out.

Disjusted at the success of outside interference with Civil Service affairs, the "militarist" agitators then circulated an enrolment list and soon a committee was able to lay before the Minister of Militia the signatures of four hundred men who offered to serve in any military capacity in which they could be useful. The offer was neither rejected nor acted upon,—it was merely pigeonholed. No reason for the lack of action was given, but one might be surmised. The effect was to give the quietus to the military organization spirit in the Service.

More than a year has elapsed since that roll of four hundred recruits was consigned to the place of unwelcome things. Scores of the men whose names were on that roll have stood before the recruiting officers and every unit raised in the Third Military District has civil servants in its ranks. Placing their duty to their country before all feelings of disappointment or resentment, these young men have gone to the front to do their bit as best they can.

Now comes upon the scene Lieut.-Col. Chas. McLean, commissioned to raised and command the 207th "Ottawa" Battalion. He looks upon the Civil Service as a fertile field from which a heavy crop of recruits should be raised, and he assigns Capt. A. G.

Bell to the work. Perhaps neither of these officers knows much of the history of Civil Service organization efforts during the present war and they may be surprised at what may appear to them to be a lack of *esprit de corps*.

A parallel of the story and of the present situation may be found in the records of the Civil Service Rifles of 1861-1866. It is no new thing for the Service to be exploited for the benefit of outsiders.

But at this time prejudices, resentments, the memories of old wrongs and the nurslings of revenge must be cast aside and forgotten. The Empire is sore distressed. Britain calls to Canada and Canada calls her sons to arms. We are Britons, we are Canadians, before we are civil servants. First and last and all the time we must do our duty to our country and our flag. We will hope that duty well done may earn some meed of recognition when the war is over and the accounts are made up.

In the proposed Civil Service company of the 207th Battalion, civil servants are offered not only class recognition but an assurance of congeniality that should be a great encouragement to enlistment. If that company fills up first it will set the tone of the whole battalion. In attractiveness to the best class of men it will rival the universities units.

Lieut.-Col. McLean's invitation is good. It comes from a man against whom we have no ancient prejudice. It is an invitation that is very unlikely to be repeated in this war. It is an invitation which no free and fit civil servant can find good excuse for declining.

Boys,—“Fall In!”

---

#### BADGES WANTED.

---

The effort to recruit civil servants for the 207th Battalion greatly emphasizes the need of an armlet or other badge as a distinguishing mark