

word would have gone far to help us in our constituency at a time of great importance to our fortunes, and would have been justified by the fact that, whatever the merits of THE CIVILIAN, a civil service paper of some kind was a move in the right direction. Yet, friendly though the city press has always appeared to the service, its attitude was the attitude of business and of business alone when what presumably it regarded as a business antagonist appeared in the field. No word of the city press, early or late, has smoothed the path for this small venture. The lesson is instructive because it shows the relationship borne pretty generally by the service to the business community, and with how essentially single minded an aim the latter pursues its way. No one can complain of this, for business is business. But the present case goes further. Since the appearance of THE CIVILIAN one of the city papers, the Free Press, has established a weekly column expressly devoted to comment on the interests and affairs of civil servants. On grounds which are as absolutely of business as those on which this column undoubtedly was started, THE CIVILIAN welcomes this awakening, tardy though it is, on the part of the Free Press. It was precisely to this end that THE CIVILIAN itself was instituted — the more complete discussion of civil service matters before the public and before the service itself — and we would suggest that The Journal and The Citizen could do no better than adopt the good example of the Free Press, and consider in some special way the journalistic needs of the civil service.

But the moral for the service itself remains: If you want anything, go after it yourself. You may get it, and you may get even more. It is to him that hath that it is always given, while from the person who buries his talent is taken even that he hath.

## CONFEDERATION.

In another column appears for the first time a working suggestion for the unification throughout the Dominion of the civil service. The suggestion is the first fruits of the appointment of a special committee by the local association, which has had the matter under consideration for some time past. The attitude of THE CIVILIAN towards the proposal has been made sufficiently plain in more than one recent issue. It is one of cordial endorsement both of the objects of the movement and of the methods in general in which it is proposed to take action. Final details of organization may well be left for subsequent arrangement. The matter of present import is the *esprit de corps* with which the suggestion is taken up by the various bodies whose co-operation is essential for its satisfactory realization. If there is one consideration that calls for special reference in this connection, it is the fact that the initiation of the scheme should lay at rest any lingering feeling that the Ottawa association at the time of its organization should have extended membership beyond the portion of the service in the immediate employ of the Departments at headquarters. Time, we believe, will prove that in the civil service as in other bodies of the same diverse constituents the federal principle of organization is the safest. There are numerous questions that affect no more than a single class or locality; there are others that concern every employee of the government from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The organization that can cope sufficiently with such a situation must of necessity be twofold: the one for the particular or local, and the other for the general. By all means let us have a federation of the existing associations in the service. The apparent need for such a body is great; and, as in similar cases always, its usefulness will be multiplied many times in experience.