

ley and I have been dead these two years, but we don't choose to have it known." The dead ones to whom we refer are less successful in their endeavours at concealment.

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These and such like honourable gentlemen we greet peacefully and pass on. To all chronic grumblers, to the soured and the hopelessly disaffected, our attitude is the same. They will predict for us direful things, doubt not. "Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble." THE CIVILIAN shall, according to them, live a useless life and die a premature death, with printers' devils for pall-bearers and sepulture in a Potters' Field of lampblack. They will foretell for us perils from the heathen and from false brethren, perils religious and secular, perils political and private; an indifferent public around us, and the Elder Statesmen in their cloudy Olympus above — whence one day shall issue the destroying thunderbolt. To all such predictors of unutterable woe we bow respectfully, but pass on untroubled. From thence cometh not our aid.

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As we view the outlook, it is one of brightest promise. The great mass of civil servants, whether at the Capital or elsewhere, are an alert body of persons, honest, capable, and in touch with modern life. That they are beginning fully to realize the importance of union and of a common sentiment is manifest from certain encouraging evidences recently afforded. Not so many months ago, 2,000 physically capable civil servants knew not where they might exercise their bodies in common; a

few weeks hence you shall see the laws of Parliament Hill, formerly content with a lonely herbaceous perfection, sprouting a crop of men. Who, looking at the result achieved by the Athletic Association, will say that the service lacks the capacity for concerted effort, or deems the resultant ends of no importance? We observe, also, both in Ottawa and elsewhere, vigorous service associations on foot, which have done yeoman service. Their commendable efforts we pledge ourselves to further, and to strengthen their hands in all possible ways—by exposition of their purposes, by seasonable comment, and, where needful, by helpful counsel.

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At this time, as it chances, there are many matters pending which are of unusual importance and interest. The gaze of the public is fixed upon the service very intently, and as to the service itself, the prevailing mood is one of unrest and expectation of change. A Commission has recently brought down a report which not only recommends relief for present exigencies, but urges changes of far-reaching consequence. A preliminary article upon this subject appears in another column, but the whole subject is of such importance that it merits careful extended treatment, and this we propose shall be given in a systematic manner. But apart from these special subjects, overshadowing though they at present are, there are very many others awaiting attention and development. The service, like any other profession or business, has its own peculiar problems to meet, and these, it must front and solve if it is to measure up