

"Per Vias Rectas."

The expressive motto of this journal is a sure pledge of the upright sentiments which will always inspire its columns. By "via recta" is not meant the flowery and tempting path of glory, but a more obscure one: that of righteousness and justice. In fact, nothing less resembles a path of glory, than that which has been contained in a late edict. Astounding indeed has been the effect produced by the last Order-in-Council, depriving civil service employees of the Post Office Department, of the right of holding municipal offices; and probably the day is not far distant when the order will be extended to all the departments.

It is easily understood that parliamentary officials want to assure the conscientious execution of their work. The importance of parliamentary matter readily explains their cautious measures. Caution, as long as it does not generate pettiness, merits a warm approval. Caution, as long as it means prudence, and a strict, thorough accomplishment of duty, is highly commendable. But can the above named edict invoke the idea of caution. The righteousness of intention of those who passed this enactment, is undoubted, but many think that this ultra-prudence lacks sagacity.

Henceforth then, the Civil Service employees are bereaved of the dearest prerogatives of man, the prerogatives of the citizen. Civil Service employees are no more free citizens, they have no more the right of serving their generation and their country. They are subjected to a dire servitude of office work only. In a word, they become intelligent slaves.

But can the parliamentary officials place much confidence in such men—slaves? What stimulant can these have to work, dispossessed as they are of all personal initiative? Is it even likely that municipal charges would necessarily impede their office work? But before "ten" a.m. and after "four" p.m. what precious services could not an intelligent and active man render to his fellow men in civic functions; and as most of the offices bring no emolument—the mayoralty accepted—is it probable that Civil Service employees would neglect the work which gives them their bread in behalf of those giving merely honours? Moreover, those responsible positions are not given to hare-brained individuals, but to well balanced minds, endowed with too keen a sense of duty to swerve from their obligations, and to benefit outside subjects to the prejudice of their daily labours. The more one ponders on this ordinance, the more one is led to the belief that it seems most inopportune.

The departments can gain naught by it, because once the idea of servitude enters the minds of subordinates, their work is no more what it should be; they will limit their exactions to the "quod justum," and a meagre one too. On the part of the government, no advantage; on the part of the subordinates, a painful, undeserved subjection will be the only results.

No one ignores the civil service recruits, generally shrewd, talented men. Nothing is more laudable; the interests of the country require this. But are all the interests of the country confined to the parliamentary compass? Are the authorities justified in monopolising the services of many able men, whose enlightened activity, energy and knowledge call for a wider field of action? Have not the cities their exigencies? Who can better answer them than those whose working hours are short?

But there is another sentiment that must be touched on, and it is liberty. In this century of legitimate emancipation, in this century which has seen the un-fettering of so many natures and classes, such harsh measures as the present seem rather paradoxical.

There are certain rights which a man will willingly divest himself of, but there are others which he must advocate, if he does not wish to assume a decided grievous culpability. There is a noble ambition innate in every true man's heart, and it is that of putting his hand to the wheel of the chariot, that carries the destinies of his country onward. A man cannot agree to become a mere instrument; his highly developed faculties and his mission forbid inaction.

It is to be hoped that the spirit of fair play which pervades all institutions under the British flag, will incite such as are concerned, to modify or censure this guase despotic decree.

Esprit de Corps.

Your commissioners have found in the course of their investigations that it happens at times there is not between the several departments of the service, and occasionally between branches of the same department, that hearty co-operation that is necessary for the proper transaction of public business. There is also to be noted, too often, an absence of that *esprit de corps* which ought to animate and usually does animate the members of the same body or service. Efforts from time to time, your Commissioners have been told, have been made by some members of the service to awaken and stimulate this sentiment, but it is feared without any marked success. Your Commissioners believe that one effect of the creation of the Civil Service Commission will be to secure this co-operation, create an *esprit de corps*, and result in ensuring to the Ministry and the country a zealous and united service for the conduct of public affairs.—Report of Civil Service Commission, 1892:

In the first number of this REVIEW, attention was drawn to this subject, and it was then urged that some means to remedy this evil, and a cause genuine *esprit de corps* to exist should be adopted. Since then a suggestion has been made and chronicled in these columns, that a civil service club should be formed. No doubt, this would be one very good method of bringing about the desired end, but there are obstacles. In order fully to establish, and when established to nourish and maintain, a perfect *esprit de corps* there must be one bond of union. In a regiment, or man-of-war there are it is true various grades, both of officers and men, but all have the one feeling of maintaining the honor of the national flag, and the paramount one, of adding lustre to the legendary glory of the regiment, and another honour to those already inscribed on the colors. Those who remember the discussion in the Imperial House of Commons, when the bill abolishing the old regimental numbers, with the old peculiar and particular nicknames, and legends will remember how insistently the opponents of that measure dwelt on this point. This feeling, it may be urged is supplied in the civil service, by every member being jealous for the honor and credit of the service, and whilst this is true in the large majority of instances, is it true in all? Men in one department hardly know men in the other departments, and between the deputy head of a department and the messenger in the same department, there is a wider gulf, than exists between the lieutenant colonel commanding a regiment, and a private in the ranks. One never reads of any friendly rivalry in sports and past-times between members of one department, and members of some other. Indeed the bank clerks, though employees of utterly distinct corporations, set a good example to the members of the civil service, and as a body have far more *esprit de corps*. The season for out door games, with all their freedom, and with the possibilities they afford for men in different grades to mix freely with each, and learn to know and appreciate each other without becoming socially intimate is just opening. Why

should not by this means a start be made this season in establishing an *esprit de corps*? The club it is true might do something, but will it accomplish fully the aim desired? It is said of Oxford men, that they stand so much on etiquette, that a man will not save the life of another man of the same college unless he has been introduced. Would not this feeling creep into the club, and without other means simply make it a conglomeration of cliques? The suggestion of the civil service commissioners is worth considerable attention.

Summer Work.

The following are the preparations for the season's work now in progress in the Geological Survey department. Arrangements are already well advanced for the disposition of the staff. Dr. Selwyn, who is now in Chicago attending the installation of the Canadian exhibit will proceed westward from that city immediately after the opening of the World's Fair, and make a thorough inspection of the Artesian wells at Deloraine, Manitoba. Prof. Tyrell will leave here about the first of May on his lonely journey of exploration between the Peace River and Hudson Bay. Mr. Lowe will explore the inhospitable regions of Labrador, and Mr. McConnell will spend the summer in the far country in which the Peace river takes its rise.

Mr. A. B. Barlow will investigate the mineral resources of the country north of the Sudbury district. The mineral out-crops in the section lying north of Peterboro will be examined and reported upon by Prof. Adams, and Dr. Bell will continue his examination of the Huronian rocks on the north shore of Lake Huron. The sandstone areas on the west shore of Lake Nipigon, will be investigated by Mr. McInnes.

Mr. J. McEvoy has been detailed to accompany the commission now on its way to Alaska, in connection with the delimitation of the international boundary. His work, however, will consist entirely of geological research in the regions traversed by the survey party. He will leave Ottawa for the Pacific Coast about the middle of May.

The proprietors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions of their correspondents.

Lady Clerks.

Editor Civil Service Review:

A letter from "Æacus" in your REVIEW, though containing a certain amount of truth, takes so one-sided a view of the case, that it would be well to place a few ideas on the other side before him.

The writer agrees with him in thinking that employment is sometimes given to clerks who do not especially require it, or who might find it in another direction, but this is true of the "male" as well as the "female" clerks. Is Government employment given only to provide for the poor and dependent, or is it that the work may be done? If the latter, why should girls not be employed if they do their duty as well as men. If work is given only to those in need, why are so many young unmarried men in the service who are exactly in the position of the ordinary lady clerk, that is to say, their families, whether relatives of deceased Civil Servants or otherwise, do not benefit in the least by their employment in the Civil Service. Are they not taking the bread out of the mouths of the children of married men who are out of work? As a remedy, would Æacus like a rule to oblige all unmarried men in the Service to marry only the widows or orphans of deceased Civil Servants? This would be as just as to say how "female clerks" shall or shall not spend their salaries. Why should it be considered worse for the "female employee to have spent nearly all her earnings on three ball dresses, than