

Clerk organizations into one body through the federal idea already developed by the Western association.

It now remains for the Customs officers to weigh well the example set by the postal boys of the West, and to consider whether they can compete in the pace being made by them in the way of getting together. Just read the matter in their supplement to-day and see what you think of it.

FACING A PROBLEM.

A new problem—a war problem—has appeared and demands the serious attention of the Government, the Civil Service and the people of Canada, for it affects most vitally the efficiency of the administration of the Dominion's affairs. Those who have been watching events closely have seen this situation developing, but its first notice in public print appeared last week. An Ottawa newspaper had this:

Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, Postmaster-General, announced that he intended to give a preference in all appointments to wounded and invalided soldiers, regardless of politics.

Further, it quoted the Postmaster-General as saying:

"Those who defend the country ought to form a privileged class in Canada. . . . In my department I will give a preference to any man incapacitated by the war and unable to follow his ordinary pursuit and this without inquiring as to his politics."

The Civilian most heartily endorses Hon. Mr. Casgrain's non-partisan declaration and agrees with him that those who defend the country ought to form a privileged class, but how far this concession should be allowed to infringe upon the public service is a matter for serious consideration. The Civil Service and the best men of Canada, both in and out of Parliament, have been, for years past, earnestly urging reform and reorganization of the public service on a purely

merit basis. The "merit" to be considered is ability to serve the country, and efficiency is the aim of the movement. Some progress has been made and more is hoped for. But how will efficiency be advanced if the bars of entrance to the service are lowered to the ex-soldiers? Following the Civil War in the United States half a century ago and the rise to political power of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Federal and State civil services were filled with old soldiers and the conditions of inefficiency, over-manning and excessive cost were greatly aggravated and are only now being eliminated as the old pensioners die off. Lately, New York state successfully defeated an invasion of its civil service by the Spanish War veterans. Canada is face to face with a similar problem. It requires careful study and cool decision.

TRAFALGAR DAY.

Next Thursday—"Trafalgar Day"—Canadians will unite with other British people the world over in a new form of celebration of Nelson's last and greatest victory. It is given to few, as it was to Nelson and Wolfe, to make the supreme sacrifice in the hour of supreme triumph, but opportunity offers every day to every loyal Canadian to win a personal victory over selfishness and to live in the blessed consciousness of duty well done. Selfishness, rather than cowardice, holds thousands of our young men back from the recruiting office, and selfishness in the souls of both men and women withholds aid in other forms from our country's need. May the memory of Nelson, his death and his last message touch many a callous heart on this "Trafalgar Day"!

DO NOT

Do not pause to consider how clever you are. Get busy and prove it.