

paid the penalty of his cannibalism by dying, too!

To show how ignorant people used to be in regard to the exact nature and significance of the Dead Letter Office, the following letter may be cited:—"I sent a Reg. letter on the 27th, for a Mr.——, and it has not been delivered to the proper person—the person's proper name is ——, and a carpenter by trade, 5 feet 10½, blue eyes, brown hare and a cut on the forehead, a lump on the smorle of his back, and no whiskers. If not delivered please send it back to me." One poor country girl, believing the Post Office to be the one institution in the world where all things human are known, wrote the following address: "To my Father in Yorkshire, at the white cottage, with green palings." Needless to say the letter never reached its destination. It contained spectacles, with the following message enclosed:—"To help you to see better, with lots of love from your dear girl, Bessie."

Here and There among Public Servants.

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 Edited by "Snap."

"Does it pay to become a civil servant?" If the country is the United States, the answer, according to an "ex-official" writing in the Atlantic Monthly for May, is "No." The reason given is that the upper positions in the U. S. are still on the patronage list. "I have been offered the headship of my bureau three times: I have never dared to accept it," said a minor official to the writer of the article, meaning that he would inevitably be cut adrift in the one, two or three years—or months. The article is a readable one, and though it deals with a different situation and "atmosphere" is well worth perusal by a Canadian civil servant. A British civil service periodical's comment on it is that "Government offices in the United States of America would seem to hold out a fair career for women, but young men of enterprise, ambition and spirit, can do greater things (as in this country) in almost any other field." Which is pessimistic. The same journal only a short

time previous compared the British and American system as follows: "The British method is by far the preferable, much as it is at fault owing to the chances of stagnation and of the continual herding together of the ambitious and striving with the unambitious and merely casual. Can the stereotyped British official bring to mind the feelings and physiognomy of a Committee Clerk or Secretary being bluntly or courteously told that in future he would be a mere Higher Division man, his place being given possibly to the relative of a provincial butcher with political power!"

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A marked increase in the world's gold supply, and extravagance and waste, public and private, are the principal reasons given for the high cost of living by a special State commission which has been investigating the subject for eight weeks. The commission classes as a contributory factor "the enormous waste of income in the United States through uneconomic expenditures for war and national armament and through multiple forms of extravagance, both public and private."

The commission suggests the creation of a commission of commerce, of a commission of market improvements, the transfer of the state cattle bureau into a bureau of animal industry, the extension of the work of state free employment offices to the distribution of immigrants, that packages containing food products shall state the amount of net contents in weight units, better inspection of cold storage plants, and the extension of the trolley freight system.

The commission expresses the opinion that the tariff should be taken out of politics and placed on a business basis, as in Germany. The extension of Canadian reciprocity in the matter of manufacturers is regarded as expedient at the present time.

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The following brief statement of developments in the civil service of Natal during the past twelve years shows that Canada is not the only country in which civil service legislation gets into a muddle:

In 1896-7-8 a considerable number of clerks were induced to take appointments in Natal on the scales of pay then in force, viz.:—3rd class, £144 to £200 per annum; 2nd class, £200 to £300 per annum; 1st class, £300 to £400 per annum. The £400 maximum was the inducing factor (together with full civil service rights), which influenced practically all of these to leave the Imperial service and join the Natal service. Again, in 1901 so numerous were the applications to leave the Natal service for the Transvaal and elsewhere that the Government abolished classification, making a clear run to £400 as an inducement to the staff to remain; this resulted in the majority of the applications