

soft snaps in the good old days!

There has been a great waste of time, labour and money in the civil service, because of the system which has prevailed in all Government departments within the past 50 years. Too many drones and too many soft-snaps. Just imagine a *drone* being paid on the first of the month in *advance*, as was the case some years ago, until his pay day was fixed for the 15th day of the month.

In the Government departments in London, Washington and Ottawa, patronage and political influence have been a curse, and at the expense of the taxpayers.

"Cost of living" was not the only problem which the executive of the Civil Service Association had to tackle.

Supervision, discipline and business principles are at the root of an efficient service in all branches of a Government department.

In order to encourage the officials and clerks of the outside service of the Post Office Department to obtain an improvement in their status as hard-working servants of the general public, I beg to suggest three maxims:—

"Perseverance overcometh all things."

"It's a long lane that has no turning."

"All comes to him who waits."—  
Provided you do not have to wait until you grow as old as Methuselah; although you may grow gray or bald, in existing on expectations like Micawber waiting for something to turn up!

AN OLD TIMER.

### The devil?

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Will you please inform a curious subscriber, a member of the Customs Department, who is the dancing devil, disporting himself with such agility over the gate in the Customs' shield of your new cover?

Sincerely yours,

CUSTOMER.

(We believe the figure referred to is not a devil at all but a god—Mercury, to wit, the god of trade—also of thieves. This, of course, is no reflection on the department, but rather an intimation how sharp its officers must be.—Editors.)

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

*The Civilian* of July 14, came to hand a few days ago, and I noted with pleasure the new cover. My congratulations to Mr. W. J. Moule on the comprehensive nature of his work. I am pleased to note from time to time the general improvement of our paper; though I, at times, feel that the West does not get the prominence it deserves, I am willing to admit that the fault may be our own, in not furnishing the material.

I notice that my subscription is not paid up to date, so you will please find enclosed two dollars (\$2 00), which kindly credit to me.

Wishing *The Civilian* and its editors every success,

I am yours respectfully,

JOHN MACKENZIE.

(Customs.)

Edmonton, Alta.

### Superannuation.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

You make much of the question of superannuation. I am far from saying that you make more of it than is justified by the facts. But if your insistence upon the matter contrasted with the inattention of the public and of most of the public's representatives means that this is held to be a question in which the members of the civil service are specially interested, then I, speaking for myself, do not agree with that holding. The question of civil service superannuation, in my opinion, is a public question, and, so far as I am concerned, the public may settle that question for itself. Speaking not as a civil servant but as one of the pub-