

THE LEAN SERVANT AND THE FAT MASTER.

A reporter of civil service news hears much these days of a disquieting and disturbing nature—much that cannot be reported but must be conned over in secret and silent places. A CIVILIAN reporter having enjoyed a trip to Britannia in the private car of the Board of Editors retired on a recent afternoon into the umbrageous asylum of the Lovers' Walk for rest and cogitation upon recent events. Here he encountered a party of three well-known civil servants, one of whom appeared to be in evident distress. The case turned out to be one of complete mental collapse, and a conveyance was called to take him to his home. A package of papers found in the convulsive grasp of the unfortunate man was entrusted to the safe-keeping and inspection of the reporter.

A careful study of said papers was necessary to arrive at some idea of the reasons of the breakdown of the owner. The first thing to catch the eye was a paper-covered translation of Homer's poems and several copies of THE CIVILIAN, denoting the devotion of the owner to both the ancient and modern classics. Clippings of all matter relating to the formation of the Loan and Savings Society were found, and developments proved that the owner would have been first at the counter of the new organization in quest of a loan. The constitution of the athletic association with marginal notes opposite the amateur definition evidenced great perturbation of mind.

But the fourth issue of THE CIVILIAN, dated June 19th, was the cynosure of all this man's thoughts. Here on page 63 was found a statement by Prof. McPhail, Political Economist of McGill University, that the cost of living had increased 45% during the past five years. The man's average yearly salary had apparently been

\$1,000 during that period. Graduating this increase equitably over the five years, the many marginal notes on THE CIVILIAN page finally showed that this ex-mural student arrived at the following result:

In 1904 he went into debt	9%	
or		\$ 90
In 1905 he went into debt	18%	
or		180
In 1906 he went into debt	27%	
or		270
In 1907 he went into debt	36%	
or		360
In 1908 he went into debt	45%	
or		450
		<hr/>
		\$1,350

In order to compete with this growing time in deficits, this civil servant had attempted reductions in unnecessary expenditures. He gave up his annual trip to Britannia-on-the-Bay, reduced his contribution to the party campaign funds and bought his haircut at the bargain counter. By these and similar drastic fiscal reforms he managed to reduce his debt from \$1,350 to \$1,348.99.

Then there appeared a great stretch of mathematics and imagination in order to show how the proposed 10% increase of salary was to wipe out this deficit and provide for future ones. Lastly there appeared a copy of a daily city paper of the same date as the collapse in the Lovers' Walk in which it was announced officially that no increase of any kind would be granted the service. The story is about complete. Some trade figures showing the marvellous prosperity of the country with utterances of the heads of departments claiming credit therefor are the final threads in the evidence.

The man had fallen a victim to hard circumstances aggravated by a dose of over-confidence. The paradox of a prosperous country and an indigent employee brought about a temporary breakdown. The reporter of this true story having at enormous trouble and expense pieced together the foregoing