

A CASE FOR PROMOTION.

From the "Vancouver News Advertiser," Dec. 14th, 1916. Abolition of patronage is one of the platforms of the Brewster administration. Dr. Shortt, Canadian Civil Service Commissioner, is coming to British Columbia to show the Government how it may be done. Mr. Brewster has our best wishes in carrying out this programme if he takes it up and goes on with it in sincerity. The inside service at Ottawa has been largely cleared of patronage by the present civil service system, of which Dr. Shortt is one of the administrators. The system does not yet fully apply to the outside service, though there are departmental examinations and other checks to patronage. The best and busiest members of parliament would be glad to be clear of the remains of patronage in the matter of appointments and promotions in the public service.

An opportunity is afforded here to give effect to the general desire among serious and patriotic people that the public service should be divested of political patronage. We are told that the senior assistant post office inspector for the Vancouver division is a capable and worthy officer. He has held his present position ten years, and reached it by promotion after sixteen years in the public service. His further promotion to the position of inspector, in succession to the late Mr. John B. M. Greenfield, would be in harmony with the idea of a non-partisan civil service. Mr. Greenfield himself reached the Inspectorship by promotion, after more than twenty years of employment in the post office department. In the nature of things the task of the post office inspector can be better performed by a man who has been in that branch of the postal service, and is acquainted with its problems in this province. We do not know what applications have been made for this rather desirable position or whether there are any. It would be singular if there were not several aspirants, but there can be none whose claims and qualifications are so good as those of the man who is now senior assistant inspector. This appointment would furnish a good example at a time when such an example is needed. For the junior positions in this inspectorate, which may be vacated by a series of promotions, we should expect the department to find some competent returned soldier, as has happened with other clerical positions.

"Know thyself" is a good motto, but don't be ashamed of the friendship.

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST.

By "V. P."

A striking feature of present day life is the specialization which characterizes human activity the world over. No other fact, perhaps, stands out so distinctly as this, while it is true as well of individual nations as of individual members of society. The growth of modern industrialism with all the concomitant conditions affecting human life is bringing into prominence more and more another result that is the natural outcome of these conditions. An old adage says, "Birds of a feather flock together," and we have the gathering into societies, trade unions and what not, those whose calling, be it high or low, draws them together for the common weal under the compelling influence of community of interest. What is it? The recognition, by the average man, that the welfare of a community depends directly upon the amount of industry, prudence, foresight, etc., which each individual member of that community brings into play in his daily life, is sometimes rather tardily granted owing to the lack of sufficient breadth of view in the average mass of men. Not so, however, that such is the fact in a calling wherein those in the same or similar lines of employment are banded together to seek, not merely his own—although that in the final analysis is essentially the result—but everyone, another's good. Because in the affairs of life it is fundamentally true that the success of the whole depends upon the amount of support contributed through individual effort. It is this recognition that constitutes the *raison d'être* for the existence of a band of fellowship among men as expressed in the association movements of today, and surely sufficient reasons are not wanting for such a feeling of kinship, for certainly, from whatever angle we may view the question, the outstanding fact is ever visible, viz., that "union is strength," the source of all power for good. The advantages to be derived from such union are not merely those of a pecuniary nature, there are many aspects besides the monetary which speculative minds might well contemplate.

People whose aims and views, as determined by their daily work, run along parallel channels must necessarily find abundant material in their common lot to forge still stronger the latent ties of sympathy that otherwise would lie undeveloped. It opens, besides, a wider fund of mental and moral wealth to the advantage of the whole body, minds that otherwise might lie dormant, with ideals