

**CIVIL SERVANTS AND MUNICIPAL POLITICS.**

The suggestion of Mr. E. N. Rhodes, member of Parliament, that "in the interests of the service" Civil Servants should, in future, be debarred from taking any part in municipal politics, is one which, we believe, is not worthy of serious consideration.

Every community of any size in Canada numbers among its citizens men on the pay-roll of the Dominion Government. Very often these men are among the most intelligent and progressive in the place. Is it in the public interest that they should be debarred from giving what time they can spare from their duties to the task of bettering conditions where they may happen to live? And on the ground of simple justice, is it right that an intelligent man who has given his life, usually for small remuneration, to the service of the State should in return be treated like an Indian, a State ward without voice in matters of great importance to himself?

It is easy to understand the objection to allowing Civil Servants to take an active share in party politics. But it is a question whether, in the great majority of cases where Civil Servants do so offend, the professional politician, the "man higher up," to use a threadbare phrase, is not really the one to blame. Political war-

fare may present some attractions to the man appointed to the public service, more particularly where he owes his position to active partisanship in the past, but the punishment for indulging in it after his appointment is certain, given enough time, and, if he were allowed to follow his own inclinations, he would probably leave politics strictly alone. Very often, however, he is allowed to do no such thing. Politics is essentially a game of quid pro quo and the appointee is, in far too many cases, expected to keep on "delivring the goods" even after he is supposed to have severed all active connection with things political. The more obscure and far removed from the public eye his position is, the more often is this the case.

In Canada, happily, the party spirit has extended very little, if at all, into municipal politics. It is quite possible for anyone to take part in them without getting himself branded as Liberal or Conservative. With this objection—if it be an objection—averted, we confess we cannot see where the danger lies in allowing the Civil Servant to take an intelligent practical interest in what is going on in his own city or town.—Montreal "Herald and Telegraph."

Hetty Green says the secret of health is in eating onions. Blest if we see how it can be kept secret.—New York "American."

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