

THE CIVILIAN

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Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Sept. 22, 1911

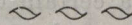
POSTMASTERS BY PROMOTION.

The last issue of *The Postal Current*, the organ of the Canadian Postmasters Association, says:

"One of the announcements which we should like to see in the near future is that a plain, everyday postmaster in a village or town office had been slated for preferment because of faithful services. We know of hundreds of cases where faithful, intelligent services are being rendered, and we hate to be driven to the conclusion that there is an unwritten law concerning postmasters to the end that they may not, under any circumstances, hope for that form of recognition."

The Civilian would like to extend the working of this worthy principle to embrace, not only the heads, but the entire staffs of Canadian post offices. At the moment, there is the very best opportunity possible offering for advancing this idea in the outside postal service. By the lamented death of Mr. H. S. Harwood,

postmaster of Montreal, a vacancy in the highest circle of the service has been created. The government could give no more powerful stimulus to efficiency in the length and breadth of this great branch of the public service than by filling Mr. Harwood's place by promotion from the ranks. In the Montreal office alone there are over 600 employees, every one of whom would be the better for knowing by a demonstration of this sort that by hard work and merit he may aspire to the highest post in his calling. So notable an example would take rank as a precedent and establish the principle once and for all.



HELD UP, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.

If some of the "outside" members of the service were dismayed at the sudden adjournment of Parliament, and the sacrifice of bills and estimates for their advantage, their case is lighter than that of the federal employees of the United States when Congress adjourned on August 22. Several bills were then pending.

The most important of these were the bills taking the postal and customs services out of politics and making permanent by legislation the executive orders providing for the merit system in the diplomatic and consular services and the various retirement measures. Two other measures not reached were the Jones and LaFollette bills providing for removal of employees only on charges and after the employee had been given an opportunity to make an explanation, allowing the employees to present grievances to Congress directly, instead of through heads of departments as at present, and permitting employees to organize, the LaFollette bill apparently allowing the federation of associations of employees with labor unions.