

WARE THE LOAN SHARK!

An old-country C.S. Journal contains the following:

"At this season of the year most of us are bombarded with bills, circulars, begging letters, and the talolla podrida which bestrews the mat behind the front door. Amongst the mass of unasked for and undesired literature we invariably find 'confidential' communications from the money-lending tout, suggesting that, 'in view of Christmas', etc., perhaps a 'little temporary accommodation' etc. There are some who receive these epistles who, in a weak moment, fall into the snare, and then their difficulties commence. An instance is brought under our notice by 'Paterfamilias' who has just discovered the reason of his son's unrest, and has made his Christmas happier by removing the cause of his despondency by liquidating his liability. This youth is a Junior Civil Servant, and, as we have said, in a moment of financial weakness, got himself in the clutches of a Shylock, with the usual results. Similar cases have frequently come under our notice."

All of which would show that we of the Ottawa Service can point the way in some things even to the Civil Servants of Great Britain. With our Savings and Loan Association we have opened a door for everyone to escape from the dangers of the usurer and the money-tout. "Paterfamilias" in Ottawa would have taken out a share for his erring son in the Association and would thus not only relieved his distress but would have taught the youth to pull himself out of the mire by his own efforts.

PROMOTIONS.

The Facts in Some Recent Cases as Promised for the Present Issue of 'The Civilian.'

In the last issue of *The Civilian* a promise was made to a correspondent signing himself "B. Grade" that

a statement of the facts would be made concerning some promotions which have recently taken place and which have caused a good deal of comment both in the service and outside.

Since that promise was made, the whole civil service, including all the acts of the Civil Service Commission and the Commission itself as well as the system it was appointed to carry out, has been thrown into the melting-pot of the new investigation which has been announced and the main facts concerning which are given elsewhere in this issue. Under the circumstances, to take up the facts of one or two cases would be very much like considering the pattern of wall-paper in one room of a house at a time when that house was about to undergo a complete overhauling.

But, of course, it will be something more than a year—possibly more than two years—before the report of the new commission will be ready, and after that it will take some time to pass the necessary laws and establish the new system whatever it is to be. Meantime, presumably, things will go on much as at present, and the question of how things are to go on for the next three years is of great importance to all and of vital importance to some.

The first thing *The Civilian* man learned when he tried to find out the facts of the case was that nobody was found who could state those facts or who would agree to the statement of them by anybody else. The only thing to be done in such a case is to state both sides.

On one side it was contended that each of the promotions referred to was right in itself, and that that being so, there was nothing more to be said.

On the other side it was represented that the civil service is not a number of dissociated individuals, but an organized body, and that to do a thing right in itself was not