

# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. I.

DECEMBER 31st, 1908

No. 18

## The Municipal Elections.

**Civil servants should vote in accordance with the programme of the Association. — Good has resulted from action already taken. — More will follow.**

The attention of all civil servants who are on the municipal voters' lists, whether assessed as property-holders or upon income, is directed to the announcement which will shortly be made by the Civil Service Association with reference to the Municipal elections. The Association is entitled to much credit for having seen so clearly how the truth-breaking attitude of the present City Fathers could be neutralized. Readers will not have failed to observe that such action as the service has already taken has borne fruit; but it is fruit that, at best, is only half-ripe, and that requires further watering by us before it will yield good cider. The Association's advice to civil servants is entirely disinterested, as it is entirely sound.

There is no attempt at coercion in this present movement. If any member of the service is convinced that a candidate for election is unfit to represent the city in a general capacity, it is recognized that the voter's primary duty is to abstain from supporting that candidate, even though the Association should be unwise enough to recommend him merely because he agreed to support the cause of the service. The Association is unlikely to present such an embarrassing choice to its members, and so we need not attempt to cross that bridge be-

fore coming to it. At the same time, the principle is clear.

But it is practically possible to assist ourselves, and at the same time to assist the city, by helping to elect fit men. So long as there are men, or groups of men, who will institute high-handed measures, so long must it be just to form combinations against such men and measures. The treatment which the present council proposed to meet out to civil servants was ill-considered and in the highest degree arbitrary. Whether civil servants should, or should not, pay taxes upon income has very little bearing upon the present case. It will be time enough to discuss that question when some means is found of discovering what are the real incomes of our fellow citizens. *Our* incomes are well known, and it is easy to see that under such conditions just taxation upon income is impossible.

In the meantime, the City of Ottawa is attempting to collect income twice; or to receive double benefits from the same source. Incidentally, it has taken a course, which, if taken by any private individual, would lay him open to the charge of sharp-practice. It is reasonable, therefore, that we should do all in our power to counteract such an attitude; and that an Association which has always comported itself with discretion, should receive the support of its membership at a critical time.