

THE CIVILIAN

Devoted to the interests of the Civil Service
of Canada.

Subscription \$1.00 a year ;
Single copies 5 cents.

All information relating to advertising
will be furnished by addressing
enquires to

Room 312

Hope Building

Phone 7262

Ottawa

Subscriptions, MSS intended for publication,
and all other communications should be
addressed to

THE EDITORS,

THE CIVILIAN,

P. O. Box 484, Ottawa

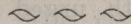
Communications on any subject of interest to
the Civil Service are invited and will re-
ceive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Aug. 23, 1912

FIRE ESCAPES.

Employees of the Auditor-General's Office and of the Department of Trade and Commerce whose offices are in the old Harris & Campbell building are greatly pleased that the Department of Public Works has commenced the erection of a fire escape on the Queen street side of that structure. This has long been regarded as the most dangerous office-building used by the Government. It is three stories in height, the interior is of wooden construction and the contents are largely of an inflammable character. Part of the building is used as government carpenter and plumbers' shops while the corridors of the part used as offices are lined with wooden shelving and crowded with paper filing-cases. Given a little start, a fire would be very difficult to extinguish

without heavy loss. There are no fire-walls, fire-doors or elevators and access to or exit from the upper floors is possible only by way of one flimsy, winding, wooden stairway. On these upper floors there are about thirty-five clerks, many of them women. A fire might cut off their escape by the stairs in a very brief time,—in fact before they were aware of the outbreak. Fire Chief Graham regards the building as a most dangerous one and a committee of the Civil Service Association having such matters in hand has long been agitating for improved conditions. It is hoped that the fire escape now being erected will be followed by other new ones on other buildings. This is not the only place where such a safeguard is needed, though in no other case was the danger from neglect so great.



A PHASE OF POST-OFFICE WORK.

The Postmaster-General of the United States states that Americans were swindled through the post during the fiscal year ended June 30 last of no less a sum than \$10,000,000, or \$50,000,000 in excess of the previous year. The cute Yankee is as easy to hoodwink as any, one good reason advanced being that the average man in both the United States and Canada is on the look-out for "something for nothing," and falls an easy victim to the glowing personal letter offering an investment which will give him a 100 per cent. return on his money within a few months, etc. It has been proved that lists of the names of such "investors" have been sold by one fraudulent manipulator to another for several thousands of dollars—such is the value placed by swindlers upon a good field of easy victims. The figures given above show only the amount intercepted by the Post Office officials, and give