

Civil Service Pot-Pourri.

"Our Canadian contemporary and namesake, *The Civilian*, prints, in the last issue received here, examination papers set at a recent test for the civil service of Canada. The situation competed for was in the Accountants' branch of the Interior, and its value 900 dols. to 1,200 dols. yearly. *The Civilian* itself remarks that the subjects were those of which a knowledge is considered necessary for anyone entering upon the work of accounting. These consist of (1) Penmanship, a short passage (about 200 words) being given to be copied, no tabular statement; (2) Dictation, a simple piece; (3) Letter-writing (the actual questions being: a. Write a letter of about 100 words to any branch of the Department of the Interior, asking for information relating to matters dealt with by that branch. b. Write a letter of about 150 or 200 words in reply to the above, giving, with necessary details, the information asked for); (4) Spelling, a short paragraph with frequent misspelled words; (5) Bookkeeping, seven simple questions on terms used in accountancy and business; (6) Arithmetic, nine problems; time, two hours. The last named paper appears to have been absurdly simple, and alongside of the tests set at the British civil service examinations it certainly is ridiculous, being far more elementary than the simplest competitive test this side of the water."

—*The British Civilian.*

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The Balance Sheet of the British Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association for the year ended 31st December, 1909, is just to hand. We learn that the number of shareholder members is 6,624, and the number of ticket holders 70,898, of whom 22,486 are members of the civil service. Sales amounted to the huge sum of £1,670,821 15s. 8½d. for the year. An interim dividend of 12s. per 10 £1 shares is recommended, and the financial outlook generally is extremely healthy. A reference to the death of Mr. R. Bannister, for so many years Chairman of the Association, is made, and the names of the retiring directors quoted.

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The gallant conduct of the French Post Office employees of all ranks in the trying circumstances recently when the central Telegraph Office in the Rue de Grenelle, Paris, was flooded, and many local bureaux were completely isolated by the waters, has inspired the government to reinstate all the postmen who were dismissed in connection with the strike of May of last year.

ON THE SIDE.

By *Democritus.*

In Eden, just before the Fall,
The serpent gave the apple
To mother Eve, and since then we
Have had an endless grapple
With the old serpent and his brood,
Who won't allow us to be good.

But now the fruit is handed back,
We're even with the demon,
We handed him a lovely peach,
A lovely, juicy lemon,
For in his teeth we at him flung
"The woman with the serpent's tongue."

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Man was created, but it was not good for man to be alone, so woman was made; and now man is no longer a loan,—he is given away every time by woman.

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There's one thing the House of Commons in England could not do to the House of Lords—budge it.

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A propos of the advice in verse to correspondents by the Editors in a recent issue,—Why is a contribution to "*The Civilian*" like a lobster?

Answer:—It must be boiled (down) before it is red.

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The most uplifting job in the Service is that of the elevator man.

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A certain well-known Civil Servant has a kitten which he has named "Bill". It seems a strange name for a kitten, until one recalls the C. S. bill which has some very long clawses.

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(Paragraph from a letter by a clerk in an Accountants' Branch.)

—I'm in a roder mood 2day,
And feel poetic, 2;
So thought I'd take my pen in hand
And send a line 2 you.
I'm sorry you've been 6 so long—
Don't feel disconsol8,
But bear your ill8 with 42de,
And they won't seem so gr8.