

on the citadel of the "Merit System."

On the other hand Mr. Foran makes this statement: "There is no division of public sentiment in Canada in regard to the wisdom and necessity of Civil Service reform."

This piece of evidence, unqualified as it is, is incorrect. In the sunny days of peace we might have felt sweet-tempered enough to allow this glaring euphemism to pass. But to-day we are fighting mad and in no mood for conventional rhapsodies. Servia, surrounded to-day and about to be cracked, is the position of the public service of Canada, surrounded by patronage thieves who murder the hopes of public servants and starve their families by a pitiless partiality in the Outside Service of Canada. The "party parasites" have a decided sentiment *against* Civil Service reform. If it were not for this blind, mis-directed sentiment, Sir Robert Borden would have abolished appointments to public office by patronage many months ago. Upon this phase of our problems, we could write many books, but we will content ourselves for the time by just remarking, that though the Premier is a sincere Democrat and Idealist, he will have to be especially well muscled-up on the day that he tackles those of his supporters who imagine in their unsophisticated ignorance that they are dependent upon a rabble of pot-hunters for their election at the polls.

In concluding this comment we will just quote a sentence later on in the address: "In the Outside Service, after a candidate is successful in an examination he must have recourse to the good-will and assistance of his political friends, in order to secure his appointment." Mr. Foran might have added that this condition applies to promotions as well.

In to-day's article Mr. Foran refers to the administration of section 21 of the Act of 1908 in the Inside Service. In discussing the term "otherwise peculiar" frequently used by the Gov-

ernment in making appointments under section 21, he says: "'Otherwise peculiar' might mean anything, but it must be said to the credit of our public men that they have never attempted to use that phrase in order to secure the appointment of any person to the public service who did not possess the requisite qualifications for the office for which he was nominated."

Unintentionally Mr. Foran drops into a fine bit of Jesuitical finesse in the closing fifteen words of this quotation. He will not appreciate this unless he has been demoted by the promotion over his head of an outsider brought in under circumstances "extremely peculiar."

In connection with the reference made in to-day's portion of the address to special competitive examinations in the Inside Service, the editors will publish a special article at another time upon this most peculiar idiosyncrasy of the commission's administration.

THE POSTAL SUPPLEMENT.

The breezy virile spirit of the West expresses itself in an innovation appearing in *The Civilian* to-day. The Postal Journal is to be a permanent institution in *The Civilian's* pages, if the editors judge aright the exuberance of spirit and enterprize which dominate the leaders of the great postal movement now reaching out its arms of esprit de corps to take in the whole movement. The initial contribution in to-day's issue will appeal to our readers as being worthy of this association of earnest, patriotic, liberty-and-fair-play-loving Canadian civil servants.

In regard to the new name adopted by this association at its convention at Vancouver, members of Eastern associations must bear in mind that the change of title was made at the express request of Eastern postal men who desire to amalgamate all Postal