

THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPERIAL SERVICE.

London Truth has this to say about the above Commission:—

“The Report of the Civil Service Commission is a costly fiasco. The university man retains his virtual monopoly of the higher, or ‘administrative’ positions, and labour is comforted with the inexpensive reflection that there ought to be more scholarships for poor men’s sons. The women are told plainly that the Civil Service does not exist for them, and retirement on marriage is to be strictly retained. A few words about equal pay for equal work and no more political jobbery complete the results of the inquiry, which, for some unknown reason, declined to report upon the vexed problem of the political rights and the trade union activities of Civil Servants.”

The Civil Service Gazette says:—

“The Report of the Royal Commission certainly contains some inexplicable features; for example, the paragraph which has been so widely commented on in the press, in which the all-round efficiency of women is compared unfavourably with that of men, appears, on careful examination, to represent the view of a minority of the Commission, although it appears in the body of the Report! There were sixteen members, the Chairman having a second (casting) vote. From the passage containing this paragraph, eight members of the Commission dissented. This makes a majority of nine to seven against the paragraph, the Chairman’s second vote, of course, not coming in. How, then, does it come about that an expression of opinion to which nine out of sixteen members of the Commission objected, appears notwithstanding, in their Report?

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“By far the most important part of the Report of the Royal Commission on Civil Service Appointments is that which deals with the prevention of jobs. There are many high positions to which men have been appointed who have had no training in the Civil Service, and who have never done anything to suggest that they are endowed with talents so brilliant that the country must secure them at any cost. We need not give specific instances; but to everyone who casts his mind back over the last few years several will readily occur.

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“Civil Servants have been made to feel that to put a Minister under a personal obligation is a far more certain road to the best-paid billets than to give lifelong service to the nation. We can only hope

that if the recommendations of the Commission are adopted they will check this growing evil. The Commission advise that where it is thought necessary to go outside the Civil Service for the filling of some important post, the Minister responsible shall be required to lay before Parliament the name, qualifications, and previous career of the person he has appointed or proposes to appoint. It would be easy to mention cases in which the Minister would have found it difficult to comply with this requirement without making both himself and his protégé supremely ridiculous.”

BAD 'PHONE MANNERS LOST ORDER.

A certain textile house in this city lost a \$3,500 order yesterday through a display of bad telephone manners on the part of the girl in charge of the house switchboard. According to the buyer, he called up this house rather early in the business morning and asked to speak to the manager. The girl had evidently been instructed to take the names of persons calling but had not been told how to do it. Instead of asking “May I have your name?” or “Who is speaking, please?” she demanded sharply, “Who are you?” To this the buyer said he answered: “I’m a man who is through buying from your house as long as you are there.” He said that he was not going to ask her discharge, but that he was going to buy somewhere else until the house got a girl who knew that “the voice with the smile wins.” — “The Gregg Writer.”

RED TAPE.

In giving vent to his feelings on his discharge, an old soldier wrote to his late colonel:—

“Sir,—After what I have suffered, you can tell the Army to go to hell.”

In due course he received the following:—

“Sir,—Any suggestions or inquiries as to movements of troops must be entered on Army Form 123 XLZ, a copy of which I enclose.” — “The Regiment.”