

The Courier in leading up to this very definite suggestion has some remarks which civil servants will read with interest. It says:

"When the Dominion Government created the Civil Service Commission, three years ago, they placed only the Inside or Ottawa service under its charge. Practically every civil servant at Ottawa, and there are over two thousand of them, are now under that Commission of two men. All new appointments are made by them; all promotions are made by them; and all entrance and promotion examinations are conducted under their authority. "Pull" and political patronage have been eliminated around the country's legislative and administrative offices on Parliament Hill. The son of the village cobbler has the same opportunity to enter as a civil servant at Ottawa as the son of a Cabinet minister.

"Moreover, every new clerk submitted must have passed a mental and a physical examination, and must be under thirty-five years of age. No more grandmothers, grandfathers, great uncles or great aunts are allowed to encumber the public service. No more worn-out, grey-headed ward politicians can get comfortable old-age berths at Ottawa — except in the Senate, which is now the politician's only House of Refuge in the capital itself."

Not content with defining the new order, the Courier descends to the practical, and tells how to carry it into the Outside service:

"The Government has power to bring the whole or part of the Outside service under the Civil Service Commission at any time by a simple Order-in-Council. But they have been waiting until the new commissioners got their rules and regulations tried and proven. It was a wise delay, and everybody approves of it. Yet, such delays prolonged become irksome, and it is the duty of the people to see that this does not happen.

"For example, all clerks in the customs houses and all clerks and messengers in the postoffices might be brought under the Commission at once. This would take several thousand appointments out of the hands of the patronage committees and place them in the hands of the Civil Service Commissioners, with their system of appointment and promotion on merit only. Then, a year later, add clerks in the Marine and Lighthouse service, and in the Inland Revenue service. Then, a year later, add those in all other outside services from Dawson to Sydney, and from Niagara Falls to Fort Churchill.

"To do this it would probably be necessary to enlarge the Commission from two to five members and give it a greater staff of clerks; but it would be worth while. This evil of party patronage cannot be eliminated too soon. It is keeping the ward-workers in the ranks of the office-seekers; it is filling the service with old men and untrained men; it is placing inefficiency and ignorance and superciliousness at a premium."

To one C. S. Association of the Outside service the Courier's invitation has seemed to offer an opportunity. The following circular sent out to sister organizations by the C. S. Association of Prince Edward Island will explain itself:

"We invite your attention to an article which appeared in the Canadian Courier, Toronto, of 28th ult., re Civil Service Reform. The object is certainly worthy of support, and each association should energetically push the campaign. It is meeting with great success here."