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CIVIL SERVICE GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

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(Second Instalment.)

The first article of this series began in *The Civilian* of December 12th. The present article contains some useful information and may be accepted as the Gospel. The Epistle and the Lessons to be deduced, will follow.

I am given to understand that since the inception of the commission in Ottawa to control certain features of civil administration, the attitude of *The Civilian* has been one almost of renunciation as regards critical comment; that until quite recently this abnegation was absolute; and that this policy of quiescence was departed from only for the one purpose of noting the absence of information in the reports annually issued. I am also informed that *The Civilian's* attitude in this respect has been prompted by the desire to do nothing to jeopardize the merit as opposed to the spoils system, for which idea the commission is supposed to stand; the system of the square deal as well to the acolyte as to the priest in the temple of service. The commission was the star of Bethlehem to a community of people in need of a Redeemer. Five years have passed without any organized analysis of the service that the commission does, and might, confer upon the Public Service of Canada.

Five years have passed, and five years is a period in the life of an individual, or of a commission. After five years of married life a man and a woman celebrate their wooden wedding with appropriate outward manifestations. Introspectively, no doubt,

each wonders whether the union has been a success. Few will deny that this is a proper state of mind to exist, whether the relations be domestic or economic.

Stock-taking is necessary in every business as in every life. Whether the commissioners, the party of the first part, are willing to enter into this spirit of review or not, few will deny to the service, the party of the second part, the privilege of a retrospective view of the co-partnership of the past five years. In a more or less feeble and imperfect manner it is the present object to indulge in such an investigation.

To do so it is deemed advisable, as briefly as possible, to burden the minds of any who may choose to follow this story with certain facts. The sequel will show that these are essential to an intelligent understanding of the subject. In the first place I will set out a few facts regarding the organization of commissions in some other countries.

United Kingdom.

The first commission appointed to regulate the personnel of a civil service in English speaking countries was that instituted in the United Kingdom in the year 1855. The commission was composed of three mem-