

# THE CIVILIAN

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## A Bread and Butter Campaign

### To reduce the Cost of Living.

The attention of the service is directed to the following letter from the pen of Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, who is himself a member of the civil service, and who is broadly known as the founder and president of La Caisse Populaire de Lévis, a co-operative society which succeeded so well in resisting the machinations of the usurer. M. Desjardins is an authority upon the subject of which he writes. The service will do well to read and digest.

Editors *Civilian*:

I wish to make a few comments on your editorial of the last issue of *The Civilian*, with my wish to see it published in *The Civilian* as soon as possible. You have made a masterly point in your article and I congratulate you heartily.

Under the suggestive title, "Cost of Living—A Solution," *The Civilian* of June 28th last publishes a good article and winds up by an appeal in favor of a Federal Co-operative Act. It strongly appeals to all to petition Parliament to pass such an Act, and particularly calls upon President Smith, of Windsor, to make himself heard in this connection.

Having had more than any individual to deal with this question of a Federal Act on Co-operation, having had to work more than anybody else to induce our legislators to enact such a law, it seems to me that I may join my appeal to that of *The Civilian* and urge our President to move in the matter in starting a vast campaign of petition to Parliament.

If, in the past, the efforts have failed, let us remember that apart from strong resolutions passed by the Congress of the workers' unions, there were no appeals from other people urging Parliament to act, although our cause had a strong supporter in the person of Mr. F. D. Monk, now Minister of Public Works. But, unfortunately, the lack of public spirit outside, and consequently the silence that followed, seemed to justify Parliament to rest satisfied with the existing state of things and thereby gave satisfaction to the disciplined army of retailers who fought their own battle by sending hundreds of delegates to oppose Mr. Monk's bill on Co-operation. There seemed to be some reason to justify the member who once told me that I was the only citizen to ask for such a legislation, which was untrue, of course. The pressing demand of the Western grain growers has since conclusively shown that such an Act was badly wanted by all the real wealth producers of Canada, agriculturists as well as the urban laboring classes.

Let us not forget that if this cause has lost the parliamentary support of several not now in the House of Commons, we can rely upon the strong assistance of Mr. Monk who has always taken a manly stand on this question, having been the first to move the adoption of a bill on co-operative societies. The time is therefore most opportune for us to make ourselves heard in no uncertain sound, the ever increasing cost of