

# THE CIVILIAN

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receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, June 24, 1914

*"The law pertaining to the civil service should be honestly and rigidly enforced, to the end that merit and ability should be the standard of appointment and promotion, rather than service rendered to a political party."*

\* \* \*

*"Entrance to the civil service should be at the bottom, and the custom of securing men from outside the ranks and placing them ahead of old employees should be discouraged, and only resorted to when public interest demands. Civil service protects employees in their positions, but it holds them there in stagnation unless a method be found to not only secure the time of its employees, but to stimulate and reward their ambition."*

## THE HONOURABLE W. T. WHITE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BILLS.

The events of the past few weeks have demonstrated one thing very conclusively,—that a man has arisen who discerns in the composition of Canada's Public Service an interesting, and, albeit, a difficult situation, and who does not hesitate to give freely of his time and his talents to the study of the subject. The man is the Honourable W. T. White, Minister of Finance. It is in no way the peculiar duty of the Minister of Finance to undertake the laborious and sometimes thankless task of grappling with the Civil Service problem. Unfortunately for the Civil Service problem, what is any and every minister's business is no minister's business. Mr. White, however, has not been content to allow such an important matter to suffer from neglect simply because no phrase in the constitution compels this or that minister to take it up. He has taken it up because he has a vivid consciousness of the true status of the great staff performing the task of the Government of his native land should occupy. Particularly is this true of superannuation. Despite that superannuation lies at the very root of efficiency, and that without it the business of the country can be carried on only at an extravagant cost, it cannot be said that superannuation is, politically, a word with which to conjure. It does not stir the imagination of the country. In fact, such opinion as does exist is probably prejudicially antagonistic. Civil Servants who have previously gone to the Government on this matter have actually been told that until public opinion were educated the Government, though admitting the absolute necessity of the case, would prefer to take up something that would "pay" better. Mr. White is cast in a different mould. He is