

However, conventions only come once a year and then only a very few are privileged to attend them. Those who have attended them know that a friendly feeling has been established between the different offices, in a small way at any rate, just owing to the fact that a man from one office spends a few days in the company of a man from some other office, and friendly feeling is the very first step in the long ladder of efficient organization.

Now the only medium that can bring every member of every branch of the Association together is the press. By this means we can all be in convention all the time and our numerous branches can have "friendly chats" and "talk over affairs" one with the other.

Surely now, when the realization of our greatest aim, viz., a Dominion-wide Association, is on the horizon, is the time for us to get such a medium working and working regularly and thoroughly.

Our Association has believed itself to be a live organization and others, notably our friends down at Ottawa, have constantly referred to us in that way. Now, then, let us once again show ourselves and others that we actually are alive and constantly alive. Let us see that our doings are known to one another, for the knowledge that your fellow workers in the next city are up and doing is a source of great encouragement to you.

Curiosity killed the cat—but a healthy interest in the work, play and organization of your fellow clerks throughout the country will do no harm but an immeasurable amount of good.

Our thanks and deep appreciation are due the Editors of *The Civilian* for allotting us space in their periodical, for without their co-operation we should have been unable to publish a magazine under present conditions. Let us, therefore, show our thanks in a practical way, by subscribing to the paper.

THE ASSOCIATION MOVEMENT.

Its Aims and Objects.

Although the Association movement amongst postal clerks is yet in its infancy in Western Canada, that is, as compared with a few similar organizations in the Eastern Provinces, yet we venture to say that it has accomplished more for its members in the way of obtaining better conditions, higher salaries, a more equitable scale of provisional allowance, etc., than its most optimistic devotee ever hoped for. Yet, in spite of these successes, the main object of our organization still remains to be realized. To the untutored this may read like a joke, yet it is a stubborn fact. Article 2 of the Constitution of the old Postal Clerks' Association of Western Canada, now the Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada, reads: "To unite fraternally all Post Office employees who are eligible to membership; to secure through co-operation with the Post Office Department the classification of Post Office clerks, with a view to securing more equitable salary rates, regulation of hours of labour, the upholding at

all times of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, and such other objects as may arise from time to time arise."

Now read this again carefully and you will find that although co-operation with the Post Office Department is mentioned nothing is said of co-operation with the patronage distributors. You may say that this is unnecessary, for have we not obtained more equitable salary rates? Yes, dear reader, we have, but without the co-operation or recommendation of the Patronage party the promotion which you aspire to and which, by your effort, you may be rightfully entitled to, cannot be yours. Remember, there are wheels within wheels, and although the big wheel of Departmental action may be the only one visible to you, yet there are other wheels working within. The writer has had the privilege, or rather disgust, of witnessing some of these inner and concealed wheels at work. Many a postal clerk who has tried hard to obtain promotion has found his leg caught and firmly held by one of these concealed wheels, thus making it impossible for him to reach his goal. Others, who perhaps have made no particular individual effort to deserve promotion, have