

or intellect, believing that this is the radical heresy underlying the extreme views of not a few. There are men whose disdain for women in business is equalled only by their own inefficiency. With these we shall not attempt argument, realizing that the mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye, in that the more light is poured upon it, the more it contracts.

### CIVIL SERVICE CO-OPERATION.

A most interesting and instructive address; a large and representative audience, and the appointment of a strong committee for the purpose of arranging the preliminary details in connection with the formation of a Civil Service Co-operative Loan and Credit Association, were the features of the meeting held on Friday evening last under the auspices of THE CIVILIAN.

The meeting was held in the railway committee room of the House of Commons, and was attended by upwards of one hundred and fifty civil servants, representing every branch of the service. Mr. J. A. Doyon, vice-president of the Civil Service Association, occupied the chair, and Mr. W. A. Code acted as secretary.

Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, founder and president of "La Caisse Populaire de Lévis," and, as indicated in our last issue, the most eminent authority in Canada upon the co-operative movement, delivered an address of over an hour's duration. Mr. Desjardins is a pleasing, as well as a convincing, speaker, and he had no difficulty in persuading his audience that the establishment of a co-operative association along the lines of the one so successfully managed by him during the past seven years, would be of very great benefit to the service.

La Caisse Populaire de Lévis, Mr. Desjardins stated, was the first co-operative loan and credit association started in America. From a small beginning the record has been one of

really wonderful achievement. Organization was effected in December, 1906, with 100 shareholders, the number of shares subscribed being 560. The value of the shares was placed at \$5 each, payable in weekly instalments of 10 cents. Collections were begun in January, the total amount received on the first day being \$19.00. The first loan was made three months later, and from that time on rapid progress was made. During the 1st and 3rd years the loans amounted to \$3,667, \$19,800, and \$27,030 respectively, and last year the sum of \$58,549.59 was borrowed from the bank by its shareholders. During the seven years of its existence business transactions to the amount of \$339,875.00 have been effected. For the greater part the loans have been for small amounts. No loan is made for more than \$1,000.

Interest is charged at 7% and 8% per annum, according to the nature of the loan — a distinction being made between loans discounted in advance and payable at a fixed date, and those which may, at the option of the borrower, be paid before maturity.

The society is restricted in its operations to business with its members only. Every shareholder must be reputed as of good habits, sober and punctual in payments, and can be admitted to membership by ballot only. He cannot participate in profits until the full amount of his share is paid. Applications for loans are made to the manager who submits them to a committee on credit and management, which committee decides whether the application is to be granted or refused.

Before making a loan the committee of credit is obliged to obtain accurate information with regard to the honour, the spirit of order, activity, honesty and ability of the borrower, and the latter is bound to state in his application for credit the use he intends to make of the money asked for.

The repayment of loans is generally by instalments, as far as possible