

WORKING FOR HIM.

A valued subscriber—valued all the more highly because of his rarity—recently refused to pay his subscription after several numbers of *The Civilian* had been sent to him. "I took it on the promise that the paper would work for me," he said, "and it has not done so."

Some misguided friend of *The Civilian* may have made a promise which ingenuity could torture into the form which this dissatisfied one gave to it. If so, it was a case of false pretences, though kindly meant; and we confess that we would have taken a dollar from this civil servant without giving any return had he not thus sharply, and rightly, brought us to book.

There is a lesson in this for us all. The near-subscriber to whom we have referred cannot get anything out of *The Civilian* except as it brings direct and exclusive benefit to himself. He represents, does this near-subscriber, the Question of the Ages in one of its forms. There never was an attempt to raise the level of humanity or of any class of humanity but some individual at once put the question, "What is there in this for me?" And there is nothing in it for him—not a single thing; the light is not for the blind.

In the Civil Service of Canada there are people of this type—for too many of them. Their selfishness is such that they will accept without question and without gratitude the benefits that have been secured for them by the organization of thousands of better people than themselves and at the cost of incalculable labor on the part of those by whom the organization is led. And, even when those benefits are won and brought to them, they refuse to take part in the common effort but seek their selfish benefit in their own way. It is despite the deadly influence of such people that every step forward on the part of humanity has been gained.

To our near-subscriber we owned frankly that *The Civilian* had not worked for him.

And yet that was not the truth, but the very reverse of the truth. Such people more than any others need the help of *The Civilian* and of such influences as this journal represents, and for such people our best efforts are put forth. Our near-subscriber, no doubt, is a good fellow in his own way. He has that in him which will respond to an appeal, properly made, to forget his own special good and to try to benefit himself by working for the good of all.

Little by little, as the movement for Civil Service organization progresses, and as *The Civilian* learns better how to do its share of that work, this near-subscriber of ours will unconsciously change. His knowledge of the common affairs will grow; a desire to take some worthy part in those affairs will come to him, and the selfish advantage of unselfish work will light the way to labors of the very existence of which he now is not aware.

In this way *The Civilian* is working, as well as it knows how, for every man and woman in the service. And, when our work is well done, we shall have a Service that will demand of its newspaper organ, not that it shall work for any individual or any class, but that it shall devote itself to the uplift and benefit of all.



"Sufferer" writes a letter which we should much like to publish, dealing with our article in a recent issue, "To Check Abuses." But it is an inflexible rule of newspapers that the name of a correspondent must be known. Could not "Sufferer" put his letter into such a form that he could put his name to it, or at least make known his name as a guarantee to *The Civilian* that he is writing in good faith? Meantime, we thank "Sufferer" for his approval of the article to which he refers.