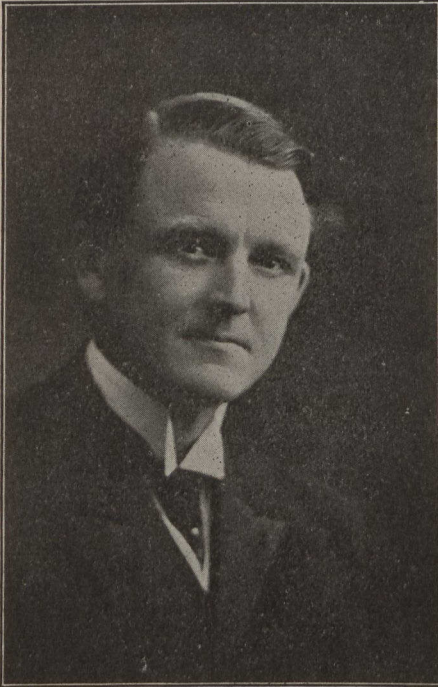


in the Statutes of Canada; surely a tremendous advance over the conditions previously existing. After all the Act of 1908 has not been barren of results. As regards the Inside Service, during the past eight years, hundreds of appointments have been made on the Merit System (if the appointment by the Commission of those who have successfully passed the prescribed academic examination can be called the Merit System),



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which otherwise would have been made by politicians under the patronage system; and no doubt if the whole inner history of the administration in the departments was known, many a promotion may have been obtained by merit that would not otherwise have been won at all.

Then again, the fact that the Government introduced a measure in 1914 to remedy the defects of the Act of 1908 and made provision to extend

it to the Outside Service as well as a measure to provide for a system of superannuation for the Service, is the strongest possible evidence that those in authority recognized that the time had arrived when, in the best interests of the country as well as the service, the evils of the system could be effectively dealt with and eventually got rid of; and further the recent utterances of Sir George Foster and other statesmen, denouncing the evils of patronage, go far to show that the spirit of reform is not by any means dead and that when the psychological moment arrives the proper remedies will be applied and the Merit System will have its day. Unfortunately the war has indefinitely postponed the further consideration of these, as well as of other measures. In the meantime the Executive of the Civil Service Association has not been idle, but has given the Bills of 1914 the fullest and most careful consideration and when the time for action arrives will be prepared to offer many practical suggestions to the Government.

So long as the patronage system is allowed to prevail in the Service it will undoubtedly have its successes, and pronounced success at that, as has been recently illustrated in more cases than one; but such individual successes do not necessarily imply the ultimate triumph of the system as a whole. It simply means that while the best attention of the Government is occupied with the serious condition of things brought about by the present war, the politician is somewhat freer to get in his deadly work. But when the time comes and present conditions have changed for the better and the Government has more time and freedom to attend to matters of domestic concern; the betterment of the Service will forge again to the front. In the meantime, patience and preparedness for action when that day does come, should be the watchword of the advocates of MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE SERVICE.