

THE CIVILIAN

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THE EDITORS,

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Communications on any subject of interest
to the Civil Service are invited and will
receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Sept. 18, 1914

SIR ROBERT BORDEN IN HALIFAX PLATFORM.

A thorough and complete re-formation of the laws relating to the Civil Service should be put into effect, so that future appointments shall be made by an independent commission acting upon the report of examiners after competitive examination. I am convinced that we shall perform a great public duty by establishing in this country that system which prevails in Great Britain, under which a member of Parliament has practically no voice in or control over any appointment to the Civil Service.

To use the power of filling positions in the public service as a reward for party service and without regard to the character and capacity of the individual selected is a gross breach of a solemn public trust. A private trustee so dishonouring his office would be subject to punishment by the criminal law.

CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY SERVICE.

At the mass meeting in Ottawa, as reported in another column, a proposal to enroll the personnel of a civil service corps, to be available in case the Militia Department desired its services, was voted down. Instead of the service giving the public a demonstration of its readiness to show enthusiastic co-operation in the present state of martial affairs, an amendment was adopted providing for a consultation with the militia authorities. We consider this amendment an unfortunate one, on account of the injurious impression that may be made.

The meeting was induced to accept the procrastinating amendment on representations made by members of the local regiments, who gave a fine example of loyalty and fidelity to their respective corps, their claim being that it would interfere with recruiting. The claim was fairly made, and deserved and received sympathetic consideration. It is important to keep the local corps up to their full strength.

We desire, however, to make a humble appeal from the argument that the formation of a civil service corps would interfere with recruiting in the "Guards" and "43rd." On the other hand, we think it might have the opposite effect and stimulate enlistment. A civil service corps would provide a new interest, bring spectators to view the manoeuvres of the