

C. S. Commission, are doomed to see outside service men hoisted over them without any examination and landed in the best places in Division Second. It reads like a bad dream, does it not? But it is a stern reality and must be faced, unless an amendment to the amendment be made, and a similar privilege granted to the members of the Third Division. It is at any rate opportunity for aspirants to civil service honors to bear in mind that the easiest way to the "inside" is from the "outside."

—*The Calendar.*

### PROMOTION EXAMINATION FEES.

It is to the great advantage of the government that all such examinations as that held recently for the position of accountant in the Department of Labour should be taken by as large a number as possible. To insure this, the fee of \$10 is excessive. There are few in the service who do not need every dollar they earn for actual living expenses. In nine cases out of ten, in the ranks chiefly interested in promotions, the payment of a ten dollar examination fee means more or less personal hardship. Though their own advancement is the prize for which they are contending, it is very decidedly to the benefit of the tone of the service that they should be encouraged to contend. There is no just reason why the candidates should pay all the expenses of the examination. The government reaps by long odds the major benefit. A fee of \$2 would be ample.

### AMEND THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

There has been a movement on foot for some months past to amend the Ontario Assessment Act so that municipalities may tax improvement values (with which are classed busi-

ness assessments, incomes and salaries) at a lower rate than land values. Some 270 municipalities have endorsed the proposal together with a large number of labour and other organizations, as well as the most influential newspapers of the province. The matter, of course, is resting at present, between sessions, the Government having taken the view that before any change of the kind is made the people should declare themselves upon it. So far as civil servants are concerned, and they number several thousands in Ontario, the change is clearly to be desired. They are a salaried class, aiming for the most part to own their own homes, purchasing in the typical case their land in the outlying and cheaper portions of the cities, and trusting with time and their own efforts to improve their holdings into first-rate residential properties. To tax every dollar they spend in this way, as at present, is to place a dampner on one of the most laudable activities of good citizenship, and simultaneously to encourage the land speculator, of all speculators the one who reaps where he has not sown.

### SUMMER HOURS AT OTTAWA.

None the less welcome and appreciated because the local Association had quite properly decided not to request the change, came the announcement last week that during the summer months, while Parliament is not in session, the hours in the service at Ottawa would be from nine to four, instead of from nine to five as previously. In nearly all the departments notice has already been posted, to the gratification of all, and especially of those who spend the summer out of Ottawa.

The text of the amended order-in-council follows:—

"That the hours of attendance to be observed by the officers, clerks and employees of the Inside service of the civil service shall be from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day except Sundays and recognized holidays; except also Saturdays, when the hours shall be from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"During the months of June, July and August, provided Parliament is not in session, the hours of attendance for those days for which no special provision is made shall be from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m."