

various states and cities meet and compare notes on their experiences there is a grand opportunity for the general public to learn and profit.

The meeting of the assembly in Ottawa gives new publicity to the fact that Canada has embarked upon a course of Civil Service reform. It is to be hoped that, despite distractions, Canadians will learn something from this gathering to assist them on their way to the distant but much-desired goal of a complete merit system of administration in all public services.

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### GRATEFUL.

The Government fittingly and substantially testified to its appreciation of duty well done when it placed in supplementary estimates amounts for compassionate allowances to the dependants of four employees who lost their lives in the Parliament Buildings fire and two who perished in Arctic exploration. The scenes of the tragedies were thousands of miles apart, and no greater variation of circumstances could be imagined, but in both cases there was the same forgetfulness of self in the discharge of duty, even with death at hand. A bronze tablet in the reconstructed parliament house and a similar one in the entrance to the Victoria Memorial Museum would be suitable permanent memorials to these faithful public servants. Peace hath its heroes as well as war.

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### AT LAST.

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars for a fireproof roof on the East Block and \$150,000 for fire escapes on other buildings is the indication (by supplementary estimates) that the Government has determined to lessen the fire hazard of its property and employees. The necessity of more fire escapes has long been a subject of

attention in the columns of *The Civilian*, and the East Block risk was referred to not long ago. *The Civilian* does not suppose that it has influenced the Government, but the action now taken by the Government is evidence that *The Civilian's* contention was well-grounded and that its argument was along right lines. The one regrettable feature is that the Civil Service Association of Ottawa does not take a more active interest in matters which so vitally concern the safety and welfare of its members.

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### CASUALTIES.

The recent long lists of casualties in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces probably contained the names of a number of civil servants. *The Civilian* requests all its readers to notify the editors of any such that may come to their knowledge. Information of casualties to civil servants in the army may be obtained, eventually, from official sources, but in the meantime news from other sources is welcome.

It would be interesting to know the feelings of a husky young slacker when he meets a grey-headed man in khaki.

It is pleasing to learn that a certain young man who is said to have taken his discharge from a militia corps at the outbreak of war has redeemed his reputation by joining an overseas battalion.

Next Monday, May 15th, the 207th Battalion of Ottawa will start its recruiting campaign. This is the battalion that offers civil servants every inducement and advantage that can be given to a soldier. What are the young men of the Service going to do?

"Ah, but she is glorious, Paris in her poverty!" writes Mabel Bigler.