

### THE PEOPLE'S SERVICE.

Many of the conditions at present prevailing, under which postal clerks labour, are anything but just, healthy, or satisfactory. Who are responsible for the conditions under which Civil Servants work?

If you are a postal clerk, you may say your Postmaster, but he is controlled by the Post Office Department, which department is in turn responsible to the Government. But we must go a step further—the Government is controlled by the public at large. If, then, we desire to remedy those conditions that we consider unsatisfactory, we must start at the proper place,—the beginning, and, by every available means at our command, enlighten the public as to those conditions. Once we have public opinion and the public's sympathy with us, we shall find that we shall obtain the objects that we have in view in a very short time compared to the time it will take us battling on alone. We cannot expect, nor should we wish the general public to give us any great amount of attention during the present national crisis, but we should ever be prepared to use every opportunity offered us to further our aims and demands. In such a matter as this every member has an opportunity of helping on our association.

### TRANSFERS.

One of the most important topics taken up by the Postal Clerks' Association in convention this year, is the question of transfers and reinstatements. As our worthy secretary, in his letter to the Postmaster-General on the subject, so truly said, these questions have always been very sore points with the rank and file of the city post offices. So far as the matter of transfers is concerned it must be understood that we are not referring to legitimate transfers which should be exchanges rather than transfers. Item nine of the convention's report asks that such transfers be allowed, which is a good thing, for in some cases, sickness, for example, it is imperative that a man have a climatic change. No, if it is the "political transfers" that cause the trouble and dissatisfaction, and this affects the West to a much greater extent than it does our Eastern brothers, as, in the past, the transfers have in nearly all cases been westward. In many of these cases there has been no justice at all.

When a new city office is established, there is naturally a need for experienced hands and it is only good business to appoint such men to the responsible positions.

But in the other cases this is the effect. For example, suppose an office has one first class clerk, No. 2A class, but several men in Class 2B. The day is coming when another one or two first class clerks can be appointed in that office. In the meantime from some other office there comes a second class clerk, grade A, thus compelling local second class men to mark time still longer than they otherwise would have had to do. What is to prevent the Department, under existing conditions, from shipping several such men to one office, if they so wished, in which case the local men, men who had risen from \$600 a year, would find their progress suddenly stopped dead. If there is no justice in the above, there appears to be still less in the cases of many reinstatements. In the past, during good business times, clerks have quit because they thought they saw better prospects ahead in the outside business world, real estate booms and so on. These men go out and reap the benefit of the good times and then when the outlook appears dark and threatening they turn round for shelter, endeavouring to obtain their old status in the Post Office. Other clerks get suspended for various reasons, some of whom apparently have the power to get reinstated in the same position as they were previously in. This sort of thing does not give the well behaved clerks much encouragement.

### UNITY.

The following is an extract from an editorial in the "Union Postal Clerk," and surely fits the case of numerous Canadian postal organizations, as much as those to whom it is meant to apply, viz,—the two postal organizations in the United States:

"That amalgamation of the two post office clerks' organizations is now an imperative necessity should appeal to all thinking members of either organization. That eventually carriers, as well as railway mail clerks will find it most expedient to join hands with the post office clerks for the formation of one great, solid organization of postal employes for the then more effective furtherance of their identical interests, is plainly evident in view of present intolerable conditions from both service and organization viewpoint. . . . This unfortunate animosity of the Department is no doubt aggravated by the existence of too many organizations, the consolidation of which into one big body would be more practicable and more beneficial to all concerned and would also tend to stifle the reactionary cry of the Department that there is too much organization.