

Spirit and Surroundings.

Recent Plans for the Improvement of Canada's Capital.

Great generals of all times have realized that the most important thing in the management of an army is to cultivate in its members the proper spirit. It is true that one of the greatest of all generals, Napoleon, seemed to contradict this when he said that "Providence is on the side of the strongest battalions." But he was speaking then only for effect. He accounted for his own splendid victories by the fact that "Every soldier knows he carries a field-marshal's baton in his knapsack"—it was the spirit of the soldier, not the size of the battalions, that won victory. And that true singer of the soldier, Rudyard Kipling, makes Tommy Atkins say to the British public that he and his comrades are neither heroes nor blackguards, but "single men in barracks most uncommonly like you." Martial service or civil service,—it makes no difference; if you are to have results you must have the right spirit in those upon whose efforts results depend.

There are a thousand influences that can be made to help in cultivating in the civil service of Canada a spirit of union, earnestness and devotion to high ideals of public duty. One of these is the influence of surroundings. By no means the least of the advantages to be gained in the improvement of this city of Ottawa to make it a worthy Capital of the Dominion is the effect this improvement will have in attracting to the civil service able men and in making them feel that they are engaged in work that is very eminently worth while. Had Ottawa grown only along the lines of its inception—"an Arctic lumbering village,"—as it was contemptuously called years ago by the most eminent of Canadian publicists—the people who

live here to serve the public would have tended downward to their surroundings, and the ablest men would have had this strong reason for seeking other fields of employment. But, as this city grows in beauty, it reflects dignity upon those who come here to live, and there is a strong attraction for the ablest men, to offset the constant and growing attraction of the greater financial rewards held out by other lines of industry. Besides, every person engaged in the service thinks more of himself and of the work he is engaged in as he realizes that the capital in which he lives is being made one of the most attractive cities of the world.

It is with special pleasure, therefore, that *The Civilian* learns of the plans made by the Ottawa Improvement Commission in that extension of their driveway system known as the Western Drive.

These plans contemplate a handsome avenue, in keeping with the rest of the Driveway, connecting the Experimental Farm and the King Edward Islands in the Ottawa River just above the city, and also running along the bank of the river for about a mile up the stream. The road from the Farm is by Fisher avenue, a little west of Holland avenue, and partly by streets already dedicated, but mainly by a new route, through a series of groves to the Richmond Road, which is followed for a very short distance, thence through the Cowley property to the river. Three bridges are to connect the shore and the islands. A part of the work will be the heightening of the beauty of this charming river scene.

In carrying out the work the same spirit of artistic conservatism will dominate as in the Driveway already finished. Nothing will be destroyed except what is necessary in making a