

dents arise to prove that these several ethereal instincts are as prevalent in the Civil Service as elsewhere if indeed not more so. One of these incidents occurred in connection with a presentation made by the members of the Post Office Mutual Benefit Society as reported in another column. The recipient of the honour is Mr. A. D. Watson, a young member of the Ottawa Service who arrived here about nine years ago. Since that date he has engaged in every good work that time allowed, his animating inspiration being the public weal. To suggest recompense or recognition would extract from Brother Watson a well-emphasized "forget all about it." However, the Post Office Benevolent people by a well-planned manoeuvre surrounded their benevolent actuary and under a flag of truce against kicking or bucking persuaded him to accept a magnificent 17-jewelled gold watch as a mark of their respect for one of the most ardent co-operators and unostentatious gentlemen in the service. Long live the Post Office Benevolent Society! and long live Watson, the co-operator! May his kind multiply!

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Of all the ill-effects of the war upon the business of *The Civilian*—the loss of advertising and the cancellation of subscriptions—nothing is so intimately or sincerely felt by the editors as the temporary absence from our pages of our well-beloved cousin, colleague and collaborator, Silas Wegg. Those of us who know the vivacious, vivid, rapier wit of Silas have since last July deplored his silence. Those of us who know Silas Wegg's peace-loving, gentle temperament can well understand how this brutal, dirty, unsportsmanlike stampede of inebriated Huns has thrown him off his stride. For so it is. Silas cannot write. He can only think and wonder that the world into which he injected so much worldly-wise philosophy is so rotten and debased. When he returns we will all welcome his optimism sadly

needed in these days of cruel blighting murders.

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The notable Western reform movement, of which the *Grain Growers' Guide* of Winnipeg is the principal mouthpiece, declares as a plank of its platform, "Take the Civil Service out of Politics." While *The Civilian* applauds the declaration of the wide-awake party of the Prairie Provinces, it would recommend that this demand for Civil Service reform be given a more prominent place in its propaganda. Difficult of accomplishment though it may be, the divorcing of the Civil Service from politics may be an easier task than some of the other reforms for which the *Guide* and its party contend, and, once accomplished it will prove a means to other much-desired ends. If members of Parliament, — and more especially cabinet ministers—had not the patronage demand upon their time, brains and energy, the real problems of the country would receive more and more serious consideration in both Houses.

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The Income Tax action of the city of Toronto against Judge Morson has reached another stage, this time resulting in the defeat of the protesting Civil Servant. It will be recalled that Judge McGillivray at Whitby issued an execution against the city of Toronto, on behalf of Judge Morson, to recover income tax unjustly imposed. The reviewing judge has reversed this decision. These fluctuating court decisions do not, however, settle the question. A decision by the Privy Council of the United Kingdom, the final court under the law, alone will convince Dominion servants of the Crown that a federal cheque is subject to a municipal tax.

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Directors, members and friends of the Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association deeply regret the retirement from the board of directors of