

THE EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

The government, at tremendous cost, procured the services of a staff of experts, not to reorganize but to classify and assign a value to the positions as they stood. The results of this business are well known; some of them would be really funny if Irving S. Cobb had treated them in a story. Unfortunately, the Reclassification-Report is genuine legislation, and a large staff, at the Civil Service Commission is employed in making positions in the service fit the book, just as in the well-known case of the soldier who had lost part of a limb, and had five operations performed on the stump to make it fit the artificial limb which was supplied.

Did it not occur to anyone in authority to reorganize first and then classify and assign values to the positions resulting from the reorganization. — No doubt there was some reason, invisible to ordinary eyes, to reverse that logical sequence. Now, however, the Classification is applied, barring consideration of the balance of the appeals and now behold the genius of the system. The very firm of Young people, whose Classification has brought financial ruin to the individual and consternation to the chiefs of departments, has been re-engaged at increased pay to perform an operation on the almost defunct patient. It reads like the old days of Patronage — such as the Preventive Service. A reward will be paid to any reader who discovers the source of the PULL.

Mr. Tom Moore gave the audience in his Russell Theatre speech at Ottawa a valuable reminder regarding the strong path of progress and the need of patience. He pointed out that the new union No. 66 had not yet found a panacea for civil servants. He said that the Labor Congress had been in existence for thirty years and had not succeeded in all its aims and objects. Federal Union No. 66 has lived only a few months and he advised the members to stick to the movement, to keep supplying the organization with the sinews of war in the way of dues and the results will follow as surely as an age of liberal democracy will follow an age of narrow despotism.

Readers of *The Civilian* will find matters of tremendous interest in the reports on another page dealing with the administration of the Board of Hearing. Mr. Bull's letter to the Prime Minister and the correspondence made public by the Federal Union of Ottawa cast reflections upon one of the Civil Service Commissioners, who as chairman of the Board of Hearing is directly responsible for the revision of the Classification. If Patronage, or improper influence or other evidence of mal-administration is proven, then the chairman must remove himself to some other

sphere of operation. The actions of no commissioner may be allowed to endanger the existence of the Civil Service Commission or the firm status of the Merit principle. If the allegations made are authentic, it will be necessary to reform the present Board of Hearing including its personnel from the chairman down in order to save the Commission. Under the proposed enquiry suggested by the Commission the chairman will have the opportunity to defend himself against the charges made against the Board of Hearing.

The Civilian is confessedly distraught in regard to present conditions, for so serious is the situation that some of our best friends of the Merit system express the belief that we are fast drifting upon the rocks of Patronage. Somebody has been throwing the proverbial monkey-wrench in the works. The Patronage politician is on the scene to take advantage of the smash-up. If some Saviour of his country does not shortly come to the rescue, a wreck is imminent. *The Civilian* believes that Federal Union No. 66 will make itself known and felt in a most effectual manner and so render a most signal service to the cause of Merit and good government.

The Halcyon Club of Ottawa and the women members of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa are now one, and this one is Halcyon. Such action is significant from many viewpoints. But first and foremost seems to be the opportunity the women have for working for their own betterment throughout the service. When women doing exactly the same work as men, filling such responsible positions as secretaries to heads of branches and departments, overseers of rooms, superintendents of special lines of work, are paid but half the salary it would seem it was ample time that they took up the heaviest cudgels in their own defence.

It will interest readers of *The Civilian* in all parts of Canada to learn that in the Ottawa municipal election a by-law on the purchase of the Ottawa Electric Railway was defeated by a vote of 4,438 to 2,326. Thereby hangs a tale. The property owners of Ottawa have under observation day after day a system of public ownership by the federal government. They are aware of the folly and farce of management either political or semi-political as may be seen in the news department of this issue and they are not inclined to risk the demoralization of a good tram service for the "tragic joke" of public service as they see it in the Dominion government service.