

THE CIVILIAN

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THE BOARD OF EDITORS,

THE CIVILIAN,

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Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Nov. 20th, 1908

MR. DOYON.

Mr. J. A. Doyon of the Inland Revenue Department, is the new president of the Civil Service Association. THE CIVILIAN congratulates both Mr. Doyon and the association on the choice. From Mr. Doyon's standpoint he has been honored with the highest office in the gift of the Ottawa Civil Service; from the standpoint of the association it has secured a man whose ability for the post is beyond question. Mr. Doyon is French by birth, but that was not the reason which prompted his appointment. He was also previously vice-president of the association, but that again was not taken into consideration by the annual meeting. Mr. Doyon owes his election to his strong personality, his known ability as a chairman, his wide experience in the work of associations not unlike in

form and scope to our own, and his long identification with the service. We sincerely hope that qualifications of this kind, and of this kind alone, will ever prove the sole basis for appointments to the higher offices of the Association. Any suggestion that race, creed, politics, or the others of that famous list, should be taken into consideration would be thoroughly mischievous.

INTROSPECTION.

The Civil Service of Ottawa has been taking a cursory glance over the events of the first complete year of its organization as a body banded together to discover and to define its strength and weakness and to improve its status as well in its own sight as in that of the public. It might not be uninteresting while looking backwards to contemplate that status introspectively and frankly, to consider wherein we have erred and to estimate justly the duty we owe ourselves in respect of our changed relations with the Government and the Commissioners. There is a comfortably settled tradition in the service that a discussion of this subject must be handled with gloves, must be steered between Scylla and Charybdis. So be it.

The leading organ of the government has long carried as its guiding maxim the following words from the pen of Junius: "A subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures." The federal Civil Service of Canada has for forty years submitted to arbitrary measures. This will be conceded by all who have had sufficient opportunities to judge. At the same time it is a reflection upon no particular government, party, or power, but the gradual outgrowth of an unfair, heartbreaking system. There will always be found men who will advise, whenever those are dis-