

WOMEN'S COLUMN.

A letter has been received by the editors of *The Civilian* from the secretary of the Association of Post Office Women Clerks of the United Kingdom requesting information regarding the status of women in the Canadian service. The letter and the reply thereto are given herewith:—

Dear Sirs.—Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., our Postmaster-General, on his return from Canada this week stated that the adoption of equal pay for men and women in the Canadian Civil Service had resulted in very few women being “taken on.” I should be very grateful if you could give me some information on the subject, especially on the following points:—

1. When was the principle of equal pay introduced?
2. How many of each sex were employed in the grades concerned before its introduction?
3. How many of each sex are now employed?
4. Are men and women given equal opportunities of entering the Service, viz., do they sit for the same examination and are the candidates at the top of the list taken irrespective of their sex?
5. Are women employed on clerical work in all the departments of the Civil Service?

If you are unable to give me the information perhaps you could tell me how it can be obtained. I presume some statistics and details are published by the government.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
F. A. CALDLEUGH.

11 Clarence Gardens,
Clapton, N.E.
Oct. 30th, 1913.

The Reply.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 1st. 1913.
Miss F. A. Caldleugh,
Secretary,
Association of P. O. Women Clerks,
11 Clarence Gardens,
Clapton, N. E., England.

Dear Madam.—Your letter of the 30th October received. It cannot be fairly claimed that men and women are on equal terms in the Canadian Service. The employment of women outside of Ottawa is negligible. In Ottawa there are some 700 women employed out of a total of about 3,500. Women have, so far, not been admitted to the First Division. Up to September, 1908 there were only seven or

eight in the Second Division. At present there are about fifty women in the Second Division (salary \$800 to \$2,100), but the great proportion of these are in grade B of that Division, with a maximum salary of \$1,600.

The following answers your questions categorically:—1. There is, and always has been, only one scale of salaries for both men and women in the Canadian Service. Both before and since 1908, ladies have been on an equal footing with men in the Third Division, with salaries ranging from \$500 to \$1,200. Women are eligible under the act to write on the same examination as men for positions in the higher divisions, but it is optional for the heads of departments whether they will be accepted for the vacant positions. This explains the very limited number of women above the Third Division. It is custom not the Civil Service Act that bars them from the higher divisions.

2. Answered by No. 1.
3. 700 in a total of 3,500 (approximately.)
4. As regards the Third Division,—Yes.
5. Yes, with the exception of two small departments.

Trusting this information will be useful, and placing ourselves at your disposal in matters of this kind at any time, we are,
dear madam,

Yours truly,
Editors *Civilian*.

JOYOUS CUSTOMS BANQUET AT VANCOUVER.

It was a happy throng that sat down to the sumptuous banquet, in good fellowship and an entertaining spirit, of the landing waiters last evening at the St. Francis Hotel, being the occasion of their second annual dinner. The whole staff, with very few exceptions, found time from their pressing work along the waterfront to join the happy crowd, and proved themselves peers among the greatest of entertainers, and showed that however much they knew about the intricacies of the Canadian customs work, they also knew how to enjoy a thoroughly good time.

An excellent musical programme was rendered, contributed to by members of the staff. Mr. G. W. Hall, who has a fine baritone voice, contributed several songs, and was loudly encored on each occasion. Mr. Harry De Graves, who also gave several songs with an excellent lyric voice, met with equal applause, and he also contributed a humorous recitation. A piano-forte solo, “My Rosary,” was well rendered by Mr. G. L. Lalonde, and one of the famous French-Canadian poet's recitations was given by Mr. A. McRae. Mr. Norman