

Yet that would appear to be the only remedy. Political parties have been exposing each other ever since party government began, and proving what they set out to prove. But how has it benefitted the Civil Service? Until Civil Servants are so strongly organized as to be in a position to refuse to do work dictated by the political machine, until the public service is made patronage proof, exposures will go on as part of the party game; and the unfortunate public servants will suffer. Civil Service solidarity would appear to be the way to throw off the blight.

The President of the United States is "up against it" on account of "patronage." There are some 100,000 appointments in the Federal service of the U. S., outside of the merit system. To save the President and his executive from going mad, and also to enable them to do their work, an extraordinary plan has been devised. A statement of the plan will illustrate what a menace "patronage" is becoming:—

The appointment by the President at the beginning of his term of a commission of three persons, to be known as the appointing commission, to serve during the term of the President appointing them and no longer. This commission would receive and consider all applications and recommendations for appointments to Federal offices not controlled by the Civil Service laws, and recommend for appointment persons it might deem suitable, who might, however, be rejected by the President or the Senate. No member of the cabinet, senator, member of the House of Representatives or any other person holding office under the national Government "shall advise or recommend any person to said commission for appointment to office," nor shall any applicant solicit official assistance for the furtherance of his cause.

The lightning is striking in many places, and here in the Province of Ontario the rumbling thunders of public opinion are heard. Here is a resolution to be introduced into the Ontario Legislature:—

"That in the opinion of this House the patronage system is inimical to the highest efficiency of the public service, and to the best interests of the country; that public interests demand the creation of a non-partisan Civil Service Commission, with ample powers; and that all appointments and promotions in the public service should be by merit after competitive examination, except in those cases where the con-

ditions of the public service render this impracticable."

Canadian Civil Servants, for some reason, are usually very loth to express an opinion on this subject, involving a great ethical principle. Nevertheless, the internal heat generated in the soul of Civil Servants occasionally breaks through the crust of discretion in the case of some servants of the Crown. The subjoined letter closes this symposium on civil service ethics, and the collection indicates an awakening of public opinion; a fortunate outcome for the future which must bring either reform or oblivion.

The Editors *The Civilian*, Ottawa, Ont.:

Dear Sirs,—I beg to enclose herewith a cutting from one of the Vancouver papers, which reports a recent speech of a politician in Vancouver. In this speech he plainly publishes to the public the rank methods of the patronage system of corruption.

Every one who is at all acquainted with the workings of the patronage system is aware of the vast amount of plotting and intrigue that is a necessary adjunct of such a dishonest and corrupt method of both filling and creating vacancies in the Civil Service.

This is the system that is responsible for the fact that both the Post Office and Customs Departments in Vancouver are heavily overstaffed, and in many cases men gain entrance to these positions that are totally unfit to act as the representatives of the Dominion especially in the frontier work of the Immigration and Customs Departments.

Merit and efficiency are of no avail in these days towards the bettering of one's position when any ex-teamster or bartender can gain the coveted positions by the aid of the necessary political pull.

We of the Outside Service are anxiously awaiting the day when this