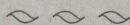


ing problems affords a hope that the servant of the Crown may well take to his heart with hoops of steel.



A BOND OF UNION.

Civil servants often are made indignant by the slighting references to their calling made in the public press. These diatribes are usually nine parts ignorance and one part prejudice. But there is in them also of truth, a trace. It is true, unfortunately, that there are in the civil service people who owe their positions to personal or political favor; there are people who are inattentive or incompetent; there are people who really do no useful work. But these people are necessarily very few. The fact that hundreds of millions of dollars are handled in and out with accuracy and honesty, that millions of letters are carried safely and delivered promptly, that the public domain in all its vastness is explored, surveyed, cared for and managed, and all the other services carried on so well that there is no real complaint against the officers concerned,—this stupendous fact of the great mechanism of the public service moving smoothly and efficiently in all its myriad and complex details, is proof that the workers in the service must be workers indeed. It is not to be wondered at if civil servants resent the imputation that they are all political favorites or sine-curists, merely because a black sheep or two can be found in their flock.

But in this public prejudice, absurd though it may be, there lurks a great lesson for all in the service. The fact is that the public tends to consider the civil service as one body, and not to differentiate so nicely as we do between those of this or that department, this or that grade, or this or that degree of efficiency.

If this sense of unity could be made as clear in the minds of those in the civil service as it is in the

public mind, the effect would be most momentous. Small differences of place, or interest, or position would be at once forgotten and civil servants would be given a sense of solidarity which now they do not possess.

And in this, as always, the great public is right, and every civil servant, when he looks the facts squarely in the face, knows it full well. The civil service is one body. Its master so regards it, and all who belong to the service should learn that lesson and act upon it.



THE PROMOTION PROBLEM IN OTTAWA.

The executive committee of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa is giving the question of promotion authority deep study just now. Plans for a "promotion board," for promotions controlled by the Civil Service Commission, for promotion by deputy minister, and for a "court of appeal," all have advocates and supporters. Under instructions of the executive committee, the departmental representatives have held special meetings with their advisory boards, and the problem has been debated at a score or so of such sessions, with various results. A general convention of all the advisory boards, with the executive committee is contemplated, and will be held on the evening of Friday, the 20th inst. The earnestness with which this problem is being debated is an evidence of the vitality of interest in the work of the Ottawa organization.

RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A correspondent in West Australia writes us to the effect that the Government in that State offers every encouragement to organizations in its Service. Not only does it preside at their social functions, but it acts on occasions in matters purely concerning differences between Associations.