

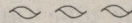
country. The need of it is proven by the experience of those who have taken an active interest in the co-operative movement. That need is voiced in the letter of Mr. Desjardins, and we are proud to be allied in so worthy a cause with a man who has done so much for the common good as the founder of the "people's bank" in Canada.

But this is a work which no one man, no few men, can carry on. Only by the united efforts of all can the public demand be created to which alone Parliament is likely to listen. This is a movement which means dollars in the pocket of every person concerned, and every person concerned should do his share to bring about the desired reform.

The endorsement of Mr. Desjardins of the attitude of *The Civilian* in regard to the problem of every day living expenses, and the solution proposed in our editorial leader in the last issue, is therefore particularly gratifying to us. It assures us that we are progressive and also that we are on the right road. The bread and butter problem is daily becoming more and more a poignant, pregnant proposition. We know not what a day may bring forth in the prices of necessary commodities. To-day it may be the price of cradles, but just as surely to-morrow it will be the price of coffins. Shall we wait for the government to adjust the equilibrium between the cost and the defrayment? It is a mirage in the desert. We know not when we may reach it. Shall we not then get busy in the meantime in our own behalf?

Mr. Desjardins thinks a petition to parliament in support of a co-operative law is the first step in the process of getting control of the prices of our own markets. *The Civilian*, in the last issue, threw this suggestion at the Federation in all sincerity, but perhaps without full realization of the work involved. It is a big proposition and may require a little time for consideration. To focus public

opinion upon the growing evil of enhanced cost of living and to point a moral and a remedy would be a fine piece of work for the service to accomplish. Everything depends upon the readiness of the members of the service as units and as individuals to induce the consumers in their locality, especially salaried men and women, to join in an expression of opinion that it is desirable to have a federal co-operative law. *The Civilian* does not intend to let the matter rest and hopes to have an announcement to make at an early date, either on its own behalf or on behalf of the C. S. Federation of Canada.



FIRE PROTECTION.

The news that some of the recommendations of Chief Graham regarding fire protection in the buildings on the Hill are to be carried out gives much satisfaction to civil servants. Everyone dreads the results of a fire in any government office building. So far as the main building and the East and West blocks are concerned, there is little probability of loss of life from fire, but the results of a fire to the Departments sustaining loss are unimaginable. There is hardly a room in those buildings where a fire might not, in five minutes, destroy books and documents which could only be duplicated by great expenditure of time and labour,—in many cases not at all. It is a source of constant regret that the most valuable government records are not duplicated and that in a great many departments they are stored in card-board cases on wooden shelves. Only the most newly-equipped filing-rooms are fitted with fire-proof shelves and cases.

What would be the probable course of events in case of fire breaking out on an upper floor of one of these buildings between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.? Suppose an electric wire or the old familiar combination of