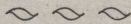


should be enforced by a commission, entirely removed from influence. Does the government desire the personnel of its service to feed on the fair mountain of merit, or to batten on the moor of the spoils system, and suffer the pangs which patient merit must from the unworthy take?

Neither of the two great political parties is, (or both are) responsible for the system which makes the public service a failure in business, and a laughing-stock in Ethics. Both parties have practised (we cannot say enjoyed) the system for a like number of years. We pray that the big men of both parties may rise above the clouds and join in a movement to place the public service on a plane in harmony with the magnitude and dignity of the empire of which we are all faithful subjects.



#### HONOURABLE LOUIS PHILIPPE PELLETIER.

*The Civilian* in its first article to-day presents to its readers a review of some of the benefits conferred upon the service since the coming into office of the Honourable L. P. Pelletier. The article does not indeed cover the whole record, for, as may be supposed, a minister, who has done so much amongst all the cross-currents of the political sea of trouble, must have tried to do more.

To overcome the neglect of a generation, which was really Mr. Pelletier's task, was more than could be accomplished in a session or two. Mr. Pelletier has done wonders in the time he has been in office. All the reports received by *The Civilian* indicate that the Postmaster General has established himself in the hearts of the members of the Post Office Department as a sincere human sympathizer of their hard and dreary lot, and it is fit and proper that he should hear an expression of this warm feeling from the lips of the service itself.

The Postmaster General's brilliant record in parliament was brought to a climax at the close of the last session by the introduction of as bold a scheme, under all the circumstances, as a public man has, in times of peace, ever seriously entertained, and his pluck, vision and enthusiasm were fittingly acknowledged by the warm congratulations of his political opponents. We refer of course to the Parcel Post System, the difficulties of introducing which in Canada cannot be estimated.

The Postmaster General has long out-distanced his colleagues in the cabinet in practical interest in the personnel of the service. If the service does not rise as a body and say thank you to this minister, it will be displaying a woeful lack of ordinary civility. The members of the Post Office Department might well take a further step and make a demonstration in honour of their minister, in a manner which will be suggested to them through another channel. This will serve the double purpose of observing the rules of good manners and of impressing upon the other members of the Government an important fact.

It is well known, and Sir George Murray emphasized the point at the opening of his report, that there is no co-ordinating supervision on the part of the Government, of the thousands of men and women engaged in the daily task of public service. There is indeed a committee of the Privy Council on Civil Service Administration, but it is understood that it rarely or never meets owing to the urgency of other public affairs. The past neglect of the Post Office Department may be traced to this past and ever present lack of organized co-ordinating supervision. Let this fact be emphasized and impressed upon the Government in a clear and clarion note.