

The
Collector of
Comments

Dominion Customs Association

The
Unofficial
Surveyor

Christmas thoughts

Retrospection at this season seems proper. We review the past twelve months and, profiting thereby, make resolutions for the new year. It is not amiss perhaps, if we go further and express our hopes and fears for the future.

Nineteen-nineteen opened with classification looming large in our affairs, with little or no information as to what it would eventually portend. The men engaged in the task of planning the scheme to readjust the working conditions of sixty thousand men and women were very, very busy, saying nothing and sawing wood, "hard".

The March convention of the D. C. A., alive to the impending changes tactfully endeavored to give the classification experts the benefit of their experience, acquired during the hard and lean years of service, and are convinced that their efforts were not altogether in vain. The appointment by the convention of a standing committee, representative of the whole service, on classification and other problems, proved a wise move, and this committee, together with the executive, had many meetings in connection with the problems of the association.

It was deemed necessary by the officers, at certain times, owing to matters which had developed, to make extended visits to branches, which was done at considerable expense, but with highly satisfactory results. The information thus acquired has been the means of solidifying the D. C. A. into a huge solidly knit organization which moves with the precision and ease of a well oiled machine.

In the presentation of the case of the members of the D. C. A. to the Government, Civil Service Commission, Board of Hearings and Appeals

on Classification, and the Department, no class distinction was shown. The case of the low paid and those whose salaries are in the higher grades received equal consideration, the case of the collector and the messenger being dealt with equally and on their merits. Our methods of handling the many grievances, etc., were always characterized by moderation and brevity coupled with firmness, earning the unstinted approval of those with whom we came into contact.

To the officers, members of committees, and particularly the hard working and little appreciated branch secretaries, public acknowledgment is given for the whole hearted support and loyal cooperation of the past year. The men concerned are too numerous to mention here, but will understand and appreciate the thanks thus rendered.

To be associated with men of this caliber, in our patriotic and unselfish, and perhaps little understood efforts, is a privilege, and to work with them a joy. The brotherhood of our organization is never properly understood, until after a lengthy session with these faithful hard working members of the D. C. A.

This has been a great year. A year of magnificent effort, of some disappointments, and not a few gains. Altogether we are better in a number of ways than we were this time twelve months ago. The terrible war is becoming a memory, its scars are slowly healing, and we look forward with calmness and trust to the New Year, and hope it will be to all of our members a happy and prosperous one.

Bill No. 18

Now that we have Bill No. 18 on the statute book, it is well to remember that a vital and essential part, so far as the Service is concerned, is

dead. For more than a year, what has been the answer of the ministers of the Crown to any and all representations and memorials seeking relief from the burden of abnormal prices for the *necessaries* of life? True, true, a pittance, called a bonus, was handed out last year to tide over until the new bill would become operative, dating April 1, 1919, and now we find a condition in which we have those responsible, making the statement that Government never makes pledges or gives promises. Now, it seems to me in this particular case, while Government may never make pledges or give promises, in view of the unanimity of opinion on the Civil Service side as to the dating of the Bill, it is up to us to do everything we can through our organizations to have the Government allay the feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction in the Service, by having the Bill date from the time it was understood to be operative by the whole service, namely April 1, 1919.

Montreal Notes

Our friends at the "Big Port" have the right idea in keeping up the interest of the members in their organization. They have held several entertainments, and their more recent one had as one of the entertainers Mr. W. S. Weldon, Collector of the Port. This is as it should be, and shows the true "esprit de corps" which should exist at all the ports in Canada. There is no reason why other ports should not emulate the example set by our Montreal friends, so let us hear from you in time for the next issue of *The Civilian*.

Montreal Customs Association

The above association gave a concert on November 4, in the Sailors' Institute, and a most excellent pro-