

NEW ORGANIZATIONS

The organization spirit is in the air, as is evidenced by the fact of two newly formed bodies in Ottawa, both affiliated with the Civil Service Federation of Canada. One is the Stationery Clerks Branch (P.P. & S.) with the following officers:—

President, Alfred St. Laurent; vice-president, H. Westwick; Secretary, Omer Vézina; Treasurer, A. Sawyer.

The other new association is the Railway Commission Civil Service Association, whose officers are:—

President, H. C. Johnson; Vice-President, T. J. Britton; Secretary-Treasurer, L. L. Brethour.

A third body recently formed in Ottawa is the Public Works Civil Service Association, with officers as follows:—President, D. A. Hickman; Vice-President, J. A. Séguin; Secretary, Fred. Jacques; Treasurer, W. J. Jenkins.

RETURNING HEROES.

(By Duncan W. Johnson.)

Proud in the strength of manhood's power,
Eager to do their bit,
They did not shirk in flower-strewn bower,
Supine they did not sit;
They heard the Call from o'er the sea,
"Come, lads, we need your aid!"—
They heard the call—they made no plea
To stay with wife or maid.

Fled is the strength of yesteryear,
To home they come again—
They did their bit with British cheer,
Our brave Canadian men;
On pain-wracked bed they toss this hour—
Their pain for us they bear,
Fled is their strength, a young man's dower,
His joy, his jewel so rare.

Like Knights of old they come again,
All battle-scarred and worn,
They've proved themselves right truly men,
Our brave Canadian-born.
Their duty done, ours but begun,
We must stand by their side,
They manned the guns, they faced the Hun,
They must be now our Pride!

Proud is the manhood of our Land,
Regal our womankind,
They must give now the welcome hand
To broken men and blind.
They've done their bit, they faced the foe
While we stayed safe behind;
Our gratitude we now must show
To prove we were not blind.

So welcome home from o'er the sea
These lads from this our land,
They fought the fight to keep us free,
Extend the welcome hand.
There's naught too good for the maimed
boys
Who come back to our shores,
God grant they now will know the joys
A grateful land outpours!

—(From "Two Years of War," the special issue of *The Civilian*.)

Yours Truly.

Sir Evan Jones tells me that when he was in a Whitehall office he heard one typist say to another, "Isn't it awful the way we have to work these days?" "Rather," was the reply. "I typed so many letters yesterday that last night I finished my prayers with 'Yours truly'."—Daily Sketch).

—CSFC—

Affiliating with Labour.

By 11,215 votes to 1,277 the Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association of Great Britain has decided to affiliate with the Labour Party. The members voting included those serving with the Forces.

Civil Service Commission

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office—the best man being in many cases a woman, of course—the trick is done. This is quite natural, for Mr. Average Man is thinking only of himself and the service that is to be rendered to him. If he receives his letters promptly, gets his goods through the customs in good shape, finds his food properly inspected and everything else done to his liking, it will take some hammering to awake him to the fact that there is another party to be considered—the Civil Servant who has been appointed as the best man for the job and who is hard at work making good. But it is good to know that Mr. Average Man is becoming dimly conscious of the fact that through the Government he is the biggest employer of labour in the country, and that he cannot expect to have his work done exactly to his liking unless, like other employers, he pays some attention to his help.

Here comes in the third big branch of the Civil Service Commission, the Organization branch. This is the one that is of most interest to readers of *The Civilian*. After all, Mr. Average Man in the ranks of Service, is a good deal like his brother and namesake outside. It is to this branch of the Commission that the civil servant must look for relief—so far as the law will afford it—from present crying injustices and for the maintenance of the simple but glorious twelfth commandment—which is really the summary of all—the commandment of the Square Deal. An account has already been given in these columns of the work now going on to prepare for the re-organization provided for under the new Civil Service Act. The

cards which are to give the facts about all the people in the Service are now in course of filling in. A number of departments have already received theirs, and other departments are rapidly being served.

Hitherto, a great difficulty with the Civil Service has been that there was no finality or continuity of authority. The chief of the branch depended on the deputy minister, the deputy minister depended on the Minister, the Minister on Council, and Council on some mysterious and nameless power which it was held to be sacreligious for a civil servant even to think about. And even should a Minister be found who had power and willingness to help, he nearly always went out of office at the moment when the hopes of his action were highest. But it would seem that now a power has been established which cannot, and apparently does not wish to, evade responsibility either by dispersion, evasion, or in any other way. With reorganization completed under the new law, the Civil Service Commission will have both power and knowledge, and from the secular point of view these things are at least the beginning of wisdom. Through its Organization branch the Commission will have direct charge of every man and woman in the Service. Every grievance can have a hearing and every plea an answer. The very knowledge of this fact will promote confidence and still unr.st.

What has been said will indicate that the work of the Commission is very onerous. A glance at the reports prepared month by month confirm this impression. In the quarter from May to July, for instance, 4,883 applications were received for appointment to temporary positions, and these ranged all the way from office cleaners to architects. During this time examinations were held to fill 57 offices of a professional and technical nature, for which there were altogether 1,144 candidates. It does not seem strange that the Commission should desire suitable accommodation for this service. Though public business in Ottawa is supposed to slacken off in summer—the time of parliamentary recess and the season when thousands of people are holidaying in the country—there were an average of eighty callers at the office for every day of the quarter, and one day the number ran up to over 250, or an average of one about every minute and a half of the Commission's working day. The letters