

tion, were filled in the old political way. No promotion was made in the service, no applications were invited, no examinations were held, no competition of any kind was employed. Two politicians, estimable enough as most appointees are, were chosen in the old way as reward for party service. What wonder was it that, in the presence of such plain disregard of public pledges, grave doubt arose as to the sincerity of the much talked of Civil Service reform movement?

If, however, the Government's action in these matters was indefensible, they must be credited now with better things. Probably the severe criticism justly applied to the cases referred to had a wholesome effect. At all events there appears much evidence now that, as respects the mass of appointments to the service, the new order of things that was promised is being applied.

The abolition of patronage, while commending itself to most independent minds, has not been received with universal favor. There are Members of Parliament who would like to have the old system continued, and there are friends of Members of Parliament who like to boast that the power of their representative to control appointments remains unchanged. To this class belongs the editor of an Ontario Conservative journal, the *Belleville Intelligencer*, who, in discussing the subject, said:—

"Government appointments are still being made upon the recommendation of the representative of the Government, the member of Parliament for the constituency, notwithstanding any fine-spun theory to the contrary, and as yet no better system has been devised of making government appointments."

This statement of the situation, from a journal strongly supporting the Government, was naturally seized upon by the Opposition press as support for their contention that party patronage still flourished. The attention of the Civil Service Commission, to whom the public had been told, the making of appointments had been assigned, having been called to the statement of the *Belleville journal*, they proceeded to make inquiry. The Secretary wrote to the editor saying that if he (the editor) would state what appointments had been made on the nomination of the Member of Parliament, the Board would investigate the matter. The editor replied that his paper "had made no such statement" and that "there was nothing to investigate." The Secretary, rejoining, showed that the paper had repeatedly stated that appointments were being made through the representations of the resident M.P., and the editor was again asked to designate the appointments referred to. To this request the editor has not replied. Mention having been made of appointments on the Trent Canal through the member's influence, the Secretary says that neither to the Department of Railways and Canals nor to the Civil Service Commission were these appointments "put forward by any political organization, or any member of the House of Commons or Senate, but were recommended by the superintending engineer and superintendent, and concurred in by the chief engineer on the basis of efficient service."

It is only fair to the Government and to the members of the Civil Service Commission, who have made public the history of this matter, to say that the statement given to the press a few days ago seems to indicate that the Government are now leaving the making of appointments to the Commission, and that the Com-

mission are making a sincere effort to carry out the spirit of the reform.

The work assigned to the Civil Service Commission is very large and very difficult. So far as they can act through the establishing of standards and the holding of examinations, awarding the prizes to those who win them in open competition, the Commission have plain sailing. But they are called upon to do a work which was not contemplated when the Commission was created. They are required to make selections for a wide list of offices, many of them of trifling emolument, where no standards are fixed and no examinations can be held. On what principles they can proceed, how they are to obtain reliable information respecting the relative merits of the different candidates, is not easily seen. However, the object in view is a commendable one and if the Commission can devise an intelligent system of making selections for the thousands of minor offices throughout the Dominion, entirely free from political influence and with sole regard to the efficient management of the public business, they will render a valuable service to the country.

### The Lure of the Lottery

NOTHING venture nothing win" is a motto which is widely honored. The desire for a little speculation is found in almost all quarters, exhibiting itself in many forms. In the grosser shape of gambling, among a rude class, it is of course roundly condemned by all good citizens, including many who are by no means free from the offence of gambling in a more refined form. A few shillings staked on a horse race or some other sporting event, a game of bridge for small stakes, a ticket for a lottery for a benevolent purpose, a number in a "raffle" at the charity bazaar, these and many other things of like character testify to the disposition of many worthy people to "take a chance," which will be a departure from the ordinary sober line of daily occupation. And have not nearly all business enterprises an element of gambling in them? When a merchant buys a stock of goods to sell again, is he not betting on the chance that these goods can be sold at an advanced price? While the laws of most civilized countries now condemn lotteries in a general way, the spirit of venture is still recognized, in some cases by legal exceptions, in others by a lax enforcement of the laws if not a distinct evasion of them.

There has been a strong movement in Great Britain in favor of introducing the element of chance in the financing of the war, by the offer of "premium bonds," bonds which contain in one way or another the promise of a gain beyond the ordinary rate of interest. At first very generally condemned, the proposal received enough support to demand consideration from those in authority, and was turned over to one of the very numerous committees that have been appointed by the Government. The committee, while reporting against the proposal to issue "premium bonds," did so in very moderate terms, which virtually left the question open to further consideration. If the war is protracted, the movement will probably be taken up again, and there is more than a possibility that it will receive such support as will persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer to adopt it. In the meantime, something like the same question has arisen in the House of Lords. Lord Lansdowne introduced a bill to legalize the holding of lotteries for charitable purposes. The first thought of the noble Lords, no doubt, was against this as it would be against pre-

mium bonds. But it is noticeable that the Government made no effort to defeat Lord Lansdowne's bill. A protest emanated from the Bishops' bench, but was not echoed to any extent. Lord Lansdowne was able to persuade the Lords that the bill, applying only to wartime and having many checks and guards against the misuse of the privilege, was necessary to enable many charities to get the money they needed. That outside opinion was sympathetic was indicated by an article in the *London Times*, supporting the measure. "The liberality of the people of this country," said the *Times*, "in contributing to war funds of every kind has been great almost beyond belief, but we have now to recognize that there are limits to it—limits not of desire or willingness to serve such causes, but of sheer inability on the part of the people who have been accustomed to contribute to them to increase the amount of their contributions. While more and more clearly these limitations make themselves felt, the needs of war charities of all kinds increase. The remedy which Lord Lansdowne now proposes is one which the custom of religious and charitable bodies has long regarded as justifiable for such ends, and it was only when the pressure of war needs extended this custom to lotteries having a larger scope than had been usual before that officers of the law intervened. Even now, we believe, there is no legal obstacle to them in Ireland." With the Government giving a silent assent and the opponents of the measure contenting themselves with mild protests, the bill passed the House of Lords without division.

### Prosperous Quebec

QUEBEC is sometimes advertised as the "Province of Prosperity," and not without good reason. The wharves and factories of its cities and towns are full of activity and, what is perhaps more important, its agricultural interests, which after all are the dominating ones in the resources of the Province, are enjoying abundant prosperity. The Provincial Government is having the comfort and satisfaction of easy finance. While the Treasurers of some of the other provinces have anxieties concerning their budgets, Hon. Mr. Mitchell, the Treasurer of Quebec, has the pleasure of announcing a handsome surplus on the operations of the year which closed on the 30th of June. The revenue of the Province for the year, \$13,806,390, enabled the Treasurer to meet all ordinary expenses, pay \$625,000 (balance of a million dollar grant) to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and still have a surplus of \$1,502,558. This very gratifying exhibit will naturally strengthen the hands of Sir Lomer Gouin and his colleagues in the carrying on of their progressive policy, in which the good roads movement has a prominent part.

### The Days of Good News

THE news from day to day just now is most cheering. As respects the war—and that is the paramount question—each day's despatches tell of the steady advance of the Allied forces, of the capture of towns and villages hitherto in German hands, of heroic battlefield achievements, in which our Canadian troops have had a full share, of the retreat of the German armies towards their own frontier.

And the news at home is good too. Most of the labor troubles which have had such a disturbing effect seem to have been amicably settled. Good news comes, too, from the Western farmers, whose work is of so much concern to all at this harvest season. A great crop is not to be expected, but the harvest will be much better than the promise of a month ago.