

service since 1911 and 10,000 appointments. The Hon. Mr. Rogers challenged the accuracy of the statement on the ground that no allowance was made for retirements. Unfortunately the published report of the return did not deal with retirements and to that extent the statistics available to Dr. Shortt were incomplete and will bear revision in order to exhibit the net result. There is another element outstanding in these figures, however, due to the fact that the returns from the Post Office and Marine Departments are not included. Now the numerical strength of these two departments is probably nearly equal to that of all the other departments included in the return, so that the Government should be thankful to Dr. Shortt for drawing their attention to the fact that the pot-hunters of public office have obtained full control of the patronage bread wagon and have all but run away with the commissariat.

We have nothing to do with appraising the blame or glory of Civil Service administration as between the two parties in Parliament. But we have a responsibility as to the members of the organized and indeed of the unorganized service as well. This responsibility prompts us, as a positive duty, to point out that the public service is overmanned to a remarkable degree and on account of this overmanning, of inefficient organization, of duplications and other kinds of waste, there is a loss, conservatively estimated, of over \$5,000,000 a year. A minister of the present administration once asked a delegation of Civil Servants what necessity existed for any communications between a committee of Council and the Civil Service Commissioners. Herein is the answer. The Commissioners could have informed the ministry of this overmanning and of a number of other weaknesses in the system of government as such come under their observation. The Government must

set up a wireless system of communication between Council and the Commissioners, and also the president of the Federation so that the danger signal may be shown before the inevitable *impassé* develops. Notwithstanding the war, to the demands of which we bow, it is desirable that the Government appoint a permanent ministerial body to survey as a whole the problems involved in the employment of 50,000 people; for otherwise the Halifax platform will have to be re-written in words of fire.

### THE PLEASURES OF CIVILITY.

In the House of Commons, the Hon. Mr. Lemieux has entered a protest against the contemplated testimonial to the Hon. L. P. Pelletier. We do not attempt to extract from the words of Mr. Lemieux what may have been his animating impulse in condemning this movement on the part of Civil Servants, and in branding a great body of men and women as "sycophants." No more objectionable term could have been employed in this instance and no word more untrue under the circumstances. Mr. Pelletier has passed from public life and has no longer the power to dispense favours. An immature movement to express appreciation, in a practical way, of the Hon. Mr. Pelletier while he was yet in office was halted by the abrupt veto of that gentleman himself. If Mr. Lemieux may absolve himself as immaculately from the imputation of obsequious flattery in all times and places as may the gentlemen who are instituting this presentation, he will be forever immune from any possible charge of parasitical servility. Like many other non-Post Office officials the editors of *The Civilian* are sympathetic to the proposal to pass a civil "thank you" to Mr. Pelletier, and we will not retaliate upon Mr. Lemieux by suggesting the possibility of "invidious distinction" as occurring to his mind.