

### The Examination Test.

There has been so much talk of late about the examination test that it may interest the readers of *The Civilian* to see exactly what it means in a typical case like the present.

As above stated, the position thrown open was in the accountant's branch of the Department of the Interior, and was for a \$900-\$1,200 place in the Third Division. The subjects chosen for examination, therefore, were those of which a knowledge is considered necessary for anyone entering upon the work of accounting, and were of the general calibre of the lowest division in the service. As agreed upon between the Commission and the Department, the papers were six in number, on the following subjects, viz.:—penmanship, writing from dictation, spelling, letter-writing, arithmetic and elementary book-keeping. Ability to pass this test was not, of course, the sole consideration, but the departmental records, character, etc., of the candidates were also taken into account.

### The Papers.

The text of the papers follows:—

**Penmanship.** — The candidates were given half an hour to copy the following:

#### DARTMOUTH COMMON.

His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Third, by indenture bearing date the 4th day of September, 1788, transferred as a gift to the people of Dartmouth, a large tract of land in the northern part of the town, the greater portion of which is now known as the Common or Dartmouth Park. The land transferred at that time extended from Stairs street north to Lyle and Jamieson streets, and from the Harbour east to Wilson street. The part which I propose to deal with at present, is that running north from Stairs street to Lyle street, and lying between Windmill Road and the water. This large tract of land was divided into lots and sold at public auction, under the authority of an Act passed in 1841. This Act, among other things, provided that three trustees should be appointed, that the grant to the Roman Catholics for a burying ground be

confirmed, that a road sixty feet wide, now known as Upper Water street, be constructed along the shore, and that the section of the Common above described, should be divided up into lots and sold as the trustees thought fit, "and that all money derived therefrom shall be paid and applied to the improvement of the remainder of the common and the road leading to the same herebefore mentioned." Thus it will be seen that all the money and rents received were to be devoted to the improvement of the Common.

**Dictation.** — Candidates were required to write the following from dictation in half an hour:

Old-fashioned people have comforted themselves with the reflection that in spite of the overwhelming march of modern ideas some few things yet remained fixed and immovable. One of these they supposed to be the multiplication table. Even this comforting reliance is now denied them. Everything else having been reformed by the modern schoolmaster, the multiplication table itself is to be simplified, and thus better adapted to the juvenile mind. The one great object nowadays is to make everything easy and pleasant for the children. Whatever is difficult must be cut out. If they find "twelve times" hard to learn, they must not be asked to learn it. When they consider all the stumbling blocks that have been removed from the path of the modern child, the old-fashioned people must often wonder at the achievements of their own childhood. But the modern child has so many things to study—or at least to be told about—of which his parents never heard, that he really has not time to learn all of anything. Even the multiplication table must be cut down to get it into the "curriculum."

**Letter-writing.** — The paper on composition was as follows:

1. Write a letter of about 100 words to any branch of the Department of the Interior, asking for information relating to matters dealt with by that branch.
2. Write a letter of about 150 or 200 words in reply to the above, giving, with necessary details, the information asked for.

**Spelling.** — Candidates were asked to copy the following extract, correcting the errors in spelling. Five marks were deducted for each mis-spelled word in the copy:

Such being the reasons which make it imperative that human beings should be free to form opinions and to express their opinions without reserve, and such the painful consequences to the intellectual nature and through that to the moral nature of man, unless this liberty is either conceded or as-