

duties of his position will be far greater than any that could be raised against the bringing in of a man from the outside, geographically, who was qualified for the job.

There are some interesting phases in connection with this case. The qualifications of a Collector of Customs (grade 7 port), as they appear on page 195 of the classification report, are quoted in the advertisement for the position but the following words are omitted, "six years of Customs experience, three years of which shall have been in an administrative capacity, thorough familiarity with the Customs Act and with Customs tariff rates, regulations, and procedure." And it is therefore the case that a man who knows nothing of Customs duties has been appointed at \$3,600 to perform the following duties as set forth in the advertisement,—“the appointee will be responsible for the general supervision of all work involved in the enforcement of Customs laws and the collection of

customs duties, to organize and direct the work of employees in the office and on outside examining work, etc., and to give information to the staff and general public relative to interpretations of customs laws.”

Hull Postmastership

The appointment of Alphonse Payette to the position of postmaster of the city of Hull is another case where a man with absolutely no knowledge of the post office business walks into a public office and attempts to serve the public. The members of the office staff who were familiar with the duties resigned in disgust, and the new postmaster had to 'phone over to Ottawa for an experienced post office man. When the said experienced man reached the Hull office it is said that he found the people of Hull drawing out their savings deposits as a protest against injustice and inefficiency.

The Department and the Commission have assumed the responsibility of turning down the application of Mr. Leon Madore, a competent man

of 18 years' experience in the Hull office, and also the applications of three other experienced post office men, two of whom made their homes in the city of Hull.

Friends of the merit system claim that Mr. Payette is too fine a man to knowingly commit an act which suggests at once the need of reparation and restitution as in the case of poor old Belgium. For Mr. Madore has good reports to his credit, such for example, as the following: "His management of the office is very satisfactory." The defence made by the Commission in this case is that Hull, with a population of 13,000, is a revenue office and is therefore subject to the same treatment, as to appointment, as that applied in the case of a country store serving a population of two or three hundred. There is no claim made by the Commission that this is common sense but it appears that in this case the letter of the law has been observed.

Civil Service Federation of Canada

Progress

Immense progress has been and is being made in the effort to build up a Civil Service of which we can be proud and which will be a credit to Canada but none of the executive officers of the Federation feels that there is the least reason for resting on our oars. In our progress upstream we have just passed the dating back of the classification mile post but there are other mile posts ahead—a forty per cent bonus to make the classification salaries fulfil their purpose, superannuation, trial boards, Whitley Councils, dismissals by the Commission, etc. We may even have to do some portaging. We don't know how to quit.

Full-time President

So confident is the Federation that the time has come for even greater activity than has been possible in the past that the executive has asked the president of the Federation, Mr. Frank Grierson to devote his whole time to the work of organization; it having become known that Mr. Grierson was applying for six months' leave of absence from the Finance Department for personal reasons.

Affiliation with Labor

Acting under the instructions of the eighth convention, 1919, which called upon the associations comprised within the Federation to take a referendum on the question of affiliating with labor

before the next convention, the executive has forwarded to all presidents a request that the necessary steps be taken to carry out the wishes of the convention.

The actual time that has elapsed since the question was last up for discussion is small, but the labor movement and the attitude of the world toward labor has in the meantime made such very rapid strides as to give the new referendum an aspect which it did not have for many of us at the time of the last convention.

Next Convention

The executive has forwarded to the members of the general council a suggestion that the next convention of the Federation be held beginning the second Monday in March.