

His
Majesty's
Mails

POSTAL JOURNAL

Postal'
Clerks
Forum

(Some time ago it was suggested in these pages that a special department be instituted in The Civilian wherein news and views of special interest to the Canadian Postal Service could be collected, disseminated and discussed to the great advantage of the whole Service. The following article, by the vice-president of the Federated Association of Letter Carriers, raises the curtain, and The Civilian is confident that every postal man who has the Cause at heart will contribute toward making this new feature a success. The Editor.)

ALL FOR ALL

By F. G. Bushell

Some time ago a letter carrier, member proposed that a page of *The Civilian* be devoted to a Postal Forum. We are commencing a new year and we are faced with an economic somersault. We have met during the past year, and in calm deliberation have drawn up facts and figures to substantiate claims to meet the figures placed upon necessities of life by those in possession. We are neither anarchic, socialistic, or republican in framing these demands, and are simply following the iron laws. Now, there is always in parliament, or trades unions, various and different shades of thought. There are those who favor the line of least resistance, and those of the Celtic breed who will fight at any time of the night to obtain just dues, or prevent injustice. Why such a paradox? Why should the inquiring member be so slow to voice his complaint, and the man who is invariably complaining so slow to enquire? Is it because we are on the selfish path, are too prone to judge conditions by our own personal conditions? Are we in touch with our brother? Do we work from our local or from the headquarters of all the locals? I am of the opinion that the local correspondence between branches, are invariably enquiries to substantiate claims of the enquiring branch. We are, at least, outside of the large branches; as far from amalgamation and co-operation as the stenographer and the coal heaver. Yet the one is a necessary accessory to the other. I am a firm believer in the exchange of opinion. You cannot govern a country from Yapps crossing. You must get out of provincialism or sectionalism. No one can lead democracy with a monocle.

Now, can we obtain a page, each month, devoted to the doings of the

postal services, and can we through the secretaries of our various locals (combined locals) or separate locals, obtain the monthly discussions and findings of their bodies (clerks or letter carriers) upon the various themes discussed by them? A good number of papers are read from time to time on various subjects, and it would be to the benefit of the whole service if these papers were sent to the Postal Forum for publication. Any member conversant with the movement of the trades union admits that the simple desire to assist the more unfortunate was the germ of birth. The various struggles of the pioneers in the cotton strikes of 1854, and the old original Chartist movement are beacons to the humane man who believes that "The child is the father of the man". The co-operative movement is the salvation of the world. It started with the twelve disciples, but sad to say, today, the eye is on the Golden Calf (the dollar) rather than the Kingdom of Heaven, and most co-operation is toward the dollar rather than humanity in these days. Surely, the civil service can contribute its quota to the remedy of the social and economic evils of today. We are conversant with all the glaring injustices of the present financial system. We must come out boldly for our demands for the child—for the child of the street as well as our own. We are willing to suffer the sins of the past, but the onus is upon us to see that our child has not such a grievance as we of today are burdened with. Let us, having agreed that the demands of posterity are justified, see that we work for the emancipation of the worker, and incidentally a fair opportunity for each child. What are you doing toward co-operation? Can you assist your fellow employee to see a little further along the line? Can you put a branch resolution, or discussion into *The Civilian* that will enlighten your fel-

low members? Can you give us examples of local co-operation that will be of benefit to other branches? Have you a learned member who can contribute opinions on the labor movement, the postal employees' relation thereto, or their reasons for isolation? Let us have them. Let us have a Postal Forum that will be eagerly read by all members of the civil service. Let us hear from you any time you can show the light. Let us know you before you come to convention.

PRES. CANTWELL ON POSTAL DUTIES

That the problem of distributing mail to all parts of Canada is a stupendous task, was the statement made by Wm. J. Cantwell, Dominion president of the Postal Clerks, at the Ottawa Rotary Club luncheon recently. Mr. Cantwell pointed out that Canada, with its area thirty-one times greater than that of the United Kingdom and almost as large as the whole of Europe, must have regular deliveries of mail to every centre of population. There are, he said, between 12,000 and 13,000 post offices in this country, served by a network of railway post offices and side services extending from the offices of the railroads to the suburban districts.

"The organization of a postal service", stated Mr. Cantwell, "is largely a problem in transportation and distribution. The problem of distribution is vastly different from and more complicated than that which any other public utility, not excluding the great railroads of this country, has to grapple with.

"The success or efficiency of this system must necessarily depend upon the employees who handle the mail. If these distributors are one hundred per cent. efficient, then the service given the public is what it ought to be.