

and impervious to the designs of interest and avarice.

Ulysses represents the Civil Service, strong, adventurous, ready to overcome any barrier to reach the goal,—*The Merit System*. Storm-tossed, persecuted by the gods and men, he succeeded.

The importunate suitors who plundered Penelope, who loved her for her estate, are the patronage hunters who surround Canadian Governments, "who prize good living more than love of God or King."

In Laertes and Telemachus we find the indestructible attachment of two staunch guardians of the honour of Penelope and Ulysses. In Sir Robert Borden and the Honourable William T. White we discover two well-known lovers of the attributes distinguishing the virtuous Penelope. Like Laertes and Telemachus, these ministers of Canada are surrounded by those who oppose the Merit System in appointments to the King's service. Like the Ithacan heroes, they are hoping and praying for the interposition of Minerva, the goddess of Wisdom, and for the safe home-coming of Ulysses.

Has the guardian seraph, the goddess of Wisdom, a place among Canada's household gods? Will the two just stewards in the Canadian vineyard of King George, be faithful unto death. Permit not, O Zeus, permit it not that the shroud of Penelope be used as the winding sheet of a meritorious cause, but rather let it confound the enemies of King George as it confounded enemies of the Ithacan Penelope.

Then Circe will no more turn her visitors into swine, but instead transform them into beautiful birds and flowers,—into Birds of Paradise and the Glory of the Morning. Then, one day, there will arise a Canadian Virgil who will compose a new "*Arma virumque cano*." Then Minerva, seeing a Minister of Canada doing his duty, will rise in the Council Cham-

ber of the Olympic gods, and, Bacchus having done his part, will raise aloft a chalice to,—

A man—

"How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals!"

Correspondents of Ottawa newspapers have been explaining the hard situation of the men of the Messenger class of the inside service. This is a class with which *The Civilian* has the most sincere sympathy. As has been pointed out, messengers in some departments are doing work which properly belongs to other grades of the service, yet they have no prospect of advancement in grade nor any expectation of increase in remuneration. Their position is one of the crying anomalies of the service at the present time. No class suffers more from the hold-up of the Civil Service Bill. *The Civilian* can extend no word of comfort to the messengers, but would strongly advise all young messengers to endeavour to qualify for clerical appointments.

NOTES OF CANADA.

Canada has about 13,800 post offices. During 1914 offices were permanently closed at the rate of one per day owing to the development of rural mail delivery.

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Nearly thirty-one thousand miles of steam railway are in operation in Canada. For ten years past this total has been increasing at an average rate of a thousand miles per year.

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Canadian railways carried over forty-eight million passengers last year.

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Canadians posted 673 million letters and 64 million postcards last year.