

of the Public Service, and in order to assist in the launching of something material that the Federation pay or advance the funds necessary to send two representatives to Pennsylvania to study the proposition of buying coal for the whole Service. That Mr. H. T. Owens be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year, and a member of each organization as appointed by the President from time to time."

The report of the Committee referred to suggests that coal, flour and sugar be dealt with specifically. This is rather a chaotic year to do much speculating in flour or sugar, but steps are now being taken to carry out the desires of the Federation to the fullest extent possible. When arrangements are made to handle any commodity, the various Associations comprising the Federation will be asked to appoint representatives to take orders and arrange for distribution and financing.

The logical outcome of the Committee's work should be the formation of a wholesale and retail organization for the special cultivation of the public service constituency, and working in affiliation with the Co-operative Union of Canada. Once a workable scheme is set going, foresight and loyalty alike demand that the private trading now practised be merged in the general enterprise. While these private methods are more immediately profitable, it is questionable if, in the end, they really pay. If a reduction is effected in one-third of one's food purchases, and the opportunity to reduce the cost of the other two-thirds is neglected, the loss on the two-thirds more than counterbalances the gain on the one-third. Of course, it is impossible, when wages and warehousing charges enter into consideration, always to sell as cheaply as by private, unpaid methods; but the creation of a great buying and distributing organization is well worth a little monetary sacrifice for the results that will ultimately be attained.

The first English book on stenography, so far as known, was written by Dr. Timothy Bright in 1588. Its earlier invention is attributed to the Latin poet Ennius, to Seneca, to Cicero, and to several others.

A PROTEST.

The following letter from a prominent member of the Outside Customs Service takes exception to a reference made by Dr. Shortt at the People's Forum on Sunday evening, February 14:

"We have the whole Outside Service to consider, and it is for the people of Canada to bring that Outside Service under some regular conditions. What is the common standard of education there? The same as we apply to messengers, packers and sorters in the Inside Service. If you write at all legibly, and can spell simple words, if you can do addition and subtraction you do not need to know anything about multiplication and division. Because the standard is so low you may make a great many mistakes, and if you get over the hog line you get \$1,000 a year."

Assuming that Professor Shortt has been correctly reported, the above words are a portion of his address on "The Civil Service" delivered some weeks ago at the People's Forum in Ottawa. Now, let me state at the outset, in view of the many criticisms which have been levelled at the Professor on account of statements which he made on the same occasion regarding dismissals and appointments in the Service, if his knowledge of the facts were as accurate as that shown in his remarks concerning the Outside Service, I can readily understand why some of the strong adjectives that were applied to him were made use of by some of his critics. I hold no brief on behalf of the whole Outside Service, but as an ordinary every day Outside Customs officer, I take strong exception to the sweeping charge of the Professor regarding the low standard which he stated obtains in the Outside Service. In so far as the Outside Customs Service is concerned, does the Professor wish to be taken seriously by the people