

THE CIVILIAN

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THE EDITORS,
THE CIVILIAN,
P. O. Box 484, Ottawa.

Ottawa, June 11, 1915.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN IN HALIFAX PLATFORM.

A thorough and complete re-formation of the laws relating to the Civil Service should be put into effect, so that future appointments shall be made by an independent commission acting upon the report of examiners after competitive examination. I am convinced that we shall perform a great public duty by establishing in this country that system which prevails in Great Britain, under which a member of Parliament has practically no voice in or control over any appointment to the Civil Service.

To use the power of filling positions in the public service as a reward for party service and without regard to the character and capacity of the individual selected is a gross breach of a solemn public trust. A private trustee so dishonouring his office would be subject to punishment by the criminal law.

JUDGE PELLETIER.

Members of the Post Office Department throughout the Dominion will read with much enjoyment the account in this issue of the presentation to our great ex-Postmaster General. The final chapter in the programme was carried out without a hitch or a flaw and this great friend of the "mere man," of the flesh and blood portion of the machine was assured of the sincere regard and affection of those whose cause he espoused. Two important features stand out in connection with this pleasing event: first, 6,500 members of the postal service actually contributed to the fund that produced the souvenirs to their late chief. Second, a very substantial proportion of the fund was subscribed by the letter-carriers, who were Mr. Pelletier's special protégés and on whose behalf he exerted a very great interest.

In his reply to the address, His Lordship referred to the abortive attempt initiated while yet he was in office to make substantial recognition of his interest in the rank and file of the Service. The editors of *The Civilian* know all about this part of the story. Carried away by a justifiable but, considering the circumstances, mistaken enthusiasm, the editors of this journal conceived the idea that it became necessary to say "thank you" without more ado to this human and humane Minister. Of course the idea was absolutely opposed to the exact laws of diplomacy and a direct violation of the fundamental rules which govern conduct in the political corral known as the Civil Service. This abortive suggestion was, however, from the heart and thereby there is suggested a further compliment to the ex-Minister. The actors in that first inglorious effort to do the civil thing are not members of the Post Office Department, but are members of other departments, who, cognizant of the entry into their midst of a great