

Up to the present time the additional allowance of \$600 was necessary to enable ministers to obtain competent men as secretaries, as under the C.S.A. Act, 1908, such secretaries could only be appointed to the 2B grade—\$800 to \$1,600; but now that they may be appointed, under the amending Act of last session, at any salary up to the maximum of 1B grade—\$2,800—the necessity for this additional \$600 appears to exist no longer.

Let section 81 of the Civil Service Act be amended so as to do away with the payment of this additional sum of \$600—that is of course as regards future appointments only, and I believe that that will prove to be a solution of this problem which will be really “satisfactory to all concerned,” except perhaps to future private secretaries, who need not however be seriously considered in the matter.

Yours,
CLERICUS.

Ottawa, April 25th, 1912.

From the Outside.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Please find enclosed \$1.00 to pay my subscription to *The Civilian*. It has proved very interesting reading and your articles on the different departments of government should be read by every man in Canada. Then the philosophy and fun of “One Leg Wegg” is worth the price, and taken altogether the magazine is a credit to you and the service. I do not think the silence of the outside service is due to lack of appreciation but rather to force of circumstance. Except in the large cities the outside customs official is somewhat isolated, there being only from three to five or six in all towns in Canada of from 5,000 to 15,000 population. Under such conditions you can readily see, his duties are diversified

enough to almost make one dizzy, running all the way, in a single day perhaps, from examining baggage to the measuring or registering a ship, or from checking a draw back claim for export to quoting the latest customs classification on “barettes.”

This diversity of duty may explain the lack of “quill drivers” among outside customs officials, but if they incline towards silence, they are at one with you in your efforts towards the betterment of the service.

At our organization meeting a year ago the thing that at first was most apparent, was the fact that we were strangers, and the benefit of getting acquainted all have since recognized, and if it could be extended to the members of the inside service it would tend to a better understanding and consequently better work. No doubt the men on the inside would be glad to meet the men who gather the “dough.”

Wishing you continued success.

CUSTOMS.

Truro, N.S.

A great deal of unrest at present pervades the South African Services pending the introduction of a Civil Service Bill for which a great deal is promised when it does appear. The South African Prime Minister states that it is a most difficult measure to draw up, as it is seriously intended to change for the better the present unsatisfactory condition of the Service. In spite of the government's assurance that they are anxious to introduce and debate the Bill the Opposition are openly incredulous, attaching such importance to the measure that they intend prolonging the Budget debates indefinitely until satisfied that the government's promise will be made good.