

copy of the bluebook containing the Report of the Commission you will find my letter which was published with other letters received from members of the service. As my father was employed in the Post Office Department for over fifty-seven years, and I was employed in the same department for nearly fifty years, you will admit that I should know from observation and experience what I talk or write about on matters concerning the civil service system and employment by a government. Between 1st September, 1859, and 30th June, 1909, how many men between 20 and 60 years of age sat at desks and tables in the same rooms and in different branches of the department with me, and who received monthly pay in all grades and classes of a pay list from chief clerk to temporary clerk! During all those years and up to the last hour I sat at a desk in the department how many clerks did I classify as drones, idlers, dawdlers, loafers and toppers!

Since I was retired from the department on 30th June, 1909, I have received letters from several friends in the department who told me facts in regard to the conduct and habits of men who are drones to-day. I received a letter yesterday in which I was told of two men—one a chief clerk—chewing tobacco, expectorating everywhere, or spitting in the waste paper basket! It is impossible for Minister and Deputy Minister to maintain the proper and necessary supervision and discipline over all officials and clerks in all branches and rooms of their department. Passing a civil service examination and signing an attendance book do not prove that a man works honestly, diligently and efficiently.

Before Professor Shortt and Mr. LaRochelle got to work, a Royal Commission should have investigated all the departments and weeded out all the drones and incompetents and placed all officials and clerks in their proper places according to merit and the nature and amount of work performed each day and thereby reorganize the department on business principles, then the Minister, Deputy and Commission could have started with a clean slate to carry out the much-needed reform and purify the departments—place supervision and discipline on a permanent footing; prohibit clerks and officials from smoking and reading newspapers, talking, and loafing, and wasting their days on private affairs and recreations. Duties and work should be classified and salaries paid accordingly. To-day it is possible to see a chief clerk or a first class clerk attending to work which a second or third class performed thirty years ago.

If the government departments at Ottawa had been reorganized and established on professional and business principles, the competitive examinations would have brought into all the departments a superior class of young men, provided that politicians and po-

litical influences were abolished from the civil service system and reform was honestly carried out. Merit, efficiency, good work, and faithful services rewarded without favor, and all drones, loafers and toppers weeded out and kept out of the departments.

Yours truly,
OLD TIMER.



The Civil Service Prayer Union.

The Civilian recently received the following communication, which may serve the purpose of announcing the latest C. S. organization in Ottawa:

Ottawa, 14th October, 1910.

Dear Friend:

It has been decided to hold an evening meeting of the Civil Service Prayer Union in the rooms of the Y.M.C.A., Metcalfe street, on Monday evening next, the 17th instant, at 8 o'clock. The meeting will be addressed by members of the Union, and it is earnestly hoped that there will be a good attendance.

Yours sincerely,
A. CHISHOLM.



An Idea—And a Good One.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for complimentary notice of our new Report of Exploration by F. J. P. Crean, C.E. of my staff, in your paper of last week.

Might I make a suggestion to you "for the good of the Order"? Could you not notice Departmental publications of all departments as issued, with a short account of leading features and possibly some comment by way of praise or otherwise, as might seem called for? There are publications being issued from time to time by many departments which represent much thought and labour on the part of some member or members of the Civil Service, and as you justly remark—valuable information so prepared frequently does not sufficiently fulfill its intended mission. Improvement in the outward dress of Government publications should as you suggest be a help, but the space which your paper might devote as a regular feature to such matter would help to introduce it to other members of the official family—and thus do good.

Yours very truly,
R. E. YOUNG,
Chief Geographer &
Supt. Railway Lands.

Ottawa, Sept. 30, 1910.

[An excellent suggestion, which it is hoped soon to carry out.—Eds.]