

sure in subduing the aspirations of the war-mad monomaniac of Germany, it will be opportune to take up arms in favor of the merit system in its fight against the curse of our own citizenship, the patronage evil.

---

### THRIFT.

---

Up to a couple of years ago there was a strenuous time for the civil servant who was blessed with a love of sociability. His friends in other walks of life were nearly all more prosperous than he, and, as folks will do, they spent their money freely in proportion to the ease with which they made it. This meant that if he was to stay in the circle and keep his friends about him the civil servant had to match their spending.

True, we call it "extravagance" now and feel sure that we are much wiser than in those days. As a matter of fact, we have not changed a bit; but so many of our outside friends have been compelled by circumstances—public opinion being one—to curtail their expenditure that we find it comparatively easy to keep the money which formerly was sacrificed on the altar of friendship. There are fewer parties of one kind and another than there were, less going about, less elaborateness in all social forms and functions.

It was a form of temptation most insidious. With all the harm in it there was a great deal of good. Let the moralists and the misers say what they will about living within one's income, it is a good thing—one of the best things in life—to keep one's friends and to swell with unjarring note the chorus of sociability. But, with all the good in it, the thing could not go on indefinitely. Even the ablest of men cannot find more than a dollar's worth of money in a dollar.

We can keep in line with our friends in these days at much less ex-

pense than before. If debts have been incurred in our well-meant sociability of other days, this is the time to get them paid. Besides, whereas the key-note of the social song of other days was struck by those more prosperous than we, the key-note to-day is mainly of our own choosing. The civil servant can set an example of economy and thrift suitable to his income, and *The Civilian* ventures to believe that he is not wise if he fails to do it.

In Great Britain the command has gone out on the very highest authority—Economy! The Prime Minister of Great Britain and his colleague who was formerly leader of the Opposition joined to launch a great campaign of saving as necessary to success in the war. Extravagance is denounced by many leaders as being almost treason.

The fashion thus set will be followed in Canada. And it will persist after the war, for the war will be paid for years, decades, possibly centuries, after peace has been established.

For men in business, when times are propitious, enterprise, daring, even plain, everyday bluffing may be the means of success. But for civil servants no such thing is possible. For us the one rule in good times or in bad, with large salary or with small, is to economize, to exercise that virtue of thrift which Samuel Johnson has declared to be the parent of personal liberty and which Burns has extolled as assuring us "the glorious privilege of being independent."

---

### BUTTONED-UP PEOPLE.

---

In July, 1914, a war crazed Prussian said "Germany must have her place in the sun." "I shall rock the world" and straightway plunged more than half of humanity into the greatest struggle the world has seen. We had through this journal been conducting a campaign against the enemies that beset the Service, making