

PERSONAL.

R. A. Benoit, of the Senate staff, was married on October 26th to Pauline, daughter of the late E. Hecker and Mrs. Hecker. The ceremony was performed by Mgr. Choquette in the chapel of the Notre Dame convent, Ottawa.

J. E. Johnson, railway mail clerk, Calgary district, has been promoted to the Superintendent's office as chief clerk. He is a former London man.

William Henderson, resident architect of Public Works at Victoria, B.C., was married in St. Mark's church, Kitsilano, on October 18th, to Caroline d'Aguilar Lang, of Golden, B.C., sister of former Mining Recorder F. C. Lang and of Mrs. F. W. Aylmer, wife of Hon. F. W. Aylmer, resident engineer of public works at Chase.

CARRIERS' TROUBLE.

The discontent in the ranks of the letter carriers is by no means less, but their propaganda does not seem to be "getting anywhere." Payment of the war bonus has removed a temporary cause of irritation which was the reason for holding indignation meetings in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

Hon. Thomas Crothers, Minister of Labour, expresses an opinion that the demand of the Toronto carriers for a Board of Conciliation under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act cannot be granted. It would involve interference by one department in the internal management of another. Mr. Crothers states, however, that the matter of letter carriers' pay will have the consideration of the Ministry.

An unfortunate occurrence in this connection was the issuing of unauthorized statements to the press by members of certain city branches. Strike talk was publicly indulged in by those who presumed to speak for the organizations when, as a matter of fact, no meetings had been held to discuss any such suggestion. Such

incidents weaken organization and hurt the cause.

THE NEW EFFICIENCY.

Practical modern business efficiency is what is now expected of Civil Services, and systems of examination and appointment must be suited to that end. Even in the conservative British Isles this is now well recognized. A recent issue of the *Montrose, Scot.*, "Standard" says:

Of all persons the civil servant should be pre-eminently a man of the times; educated and trained with a view to practical usefulness. The classics may make for general culture, but a civil servant with a working knowledge of a modern language or two, the ability to express himself clearly and accurately in the English language, and some acquaintance with the history and conditions of his own country, and those of some others, ought to be a more valuable instrument of public administration. So think a departmental committee who have been reconsidering the question of Civil Service examinations, and accordingly they propose certain changes calculated to bring the examinations into closer relation with present-day requirements. The aim is not to show how successful has been the efforts of the professional crammer, but to discover the mind and the general capacity of the candidate. In short, the proposed changes are such as we would expect in a time when education is being overhauled from top to bottom and adapted to the days we live in.

DESTINY.

The mystery of destiny makes me shudder, although I am conscious of a passionate faith in the justice, greater than that of men, which comprehendeth all things.

In that faith, then, let us live.

Let us care for the weak-minded and insane, show compassion to the wretched, and hold sacred the sufferings of humanity. In exchange for the tender pity we cannot but feel for them, they return us this consoling assurance: "In the very worst of men there still remains something that does honor to humanity."—*Le Roux*.