

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. III.

NOVEMBER 18th, 1910

No. 15

The Civil Service Profession.

It has long been a theory of *The Civilian's* that perhaps the chief need of the civil service profession is a process of judicious advertising. The welfare of the individual civil servant of the better class is bound up with the obtaining of a just and proper system of civil service administration. The adoption of such a system in turn depends upon public opinion, and public opinion will not speak in such a matter until it is fully seized that the issue is one of importance.

With the idea of helping in however small a way to achieve a consummation so devoutly to be wished, *The Civilian* some time since endeavoured to arrange for a series of articles on the different Departments and branches of the service which might describe in as readable a manner as possible the highly interesting and important work which these Departments and branches carry on. It is all in the blue books of course, but the idea of *The Civilian* was to present something that could be read. For example: what more interesting field of labour is there than that of the Department which is grappling with the problem which the Indian presents? Or what more interesting machine is there anywhere than the organization which carries on the postal business of the country? Yet when visitors come to Ottawa they show them Booth's and Eddy's.

Well, it was a large order for amateurs, and though many plans were laid, the fruits thereof are as yet light. However, in another column, Mr. A. C. Campbell makes a beginning. His subject is the work of the Senate and House of Commons staff, which should be a timely one. Yesterday the guns boomed out the opening of another Parliament. All Canada heard them, and is discussing and describing the event in a hundred sheets to-day. In none of them, it is safe to predict, will there be mention of the men who are serving these servants of the people and making their labour possible. Yet, as Mr. Campbell shows, the work of the civil service here is an integral part of the whole proceedings, and none but efficient and highly trained men could perform it. When we secure real and final appreciation of this and other kindred facts which should be self-evident, we shall have started fairly on the way to the solution of some of our greatest difficulties.

The Officers and Staffs of the Senate and House of Commons — A Sketch of their Duties.

By A. C. Campbell.

The idea that the average civil servant has a very easy time would die of shock if the Canadian public could be got to consider for a minute the work that the civil service has to do. The work of the average man of business is work that applies mainly to civilized centres where communication is easy and help readily to be obtained. But, as these centres are left, the work of the individual is shouldered off more and more upon the government until, as you get to the unsettled regions of the West or the frozen solitudes of the North, such work as is done at all is the work of the government.

True, the civil servant at Ottawa usually is not called upon to carry on in person the work in lands of physical difficulty and danger — though, more than is at all suspected, men from the government offices are required to undertake journeys to the uttermost limits of Canada's territorial occupation. But, however the work may be done, that work grows more difficult for all concerned as the social machinery grows less effective, and, as already suggested, as the difficulties accumulate the work is left more and more completely to the men in the public's employ.

The immense area of Canada in proportion to population, the extent and ruggedness of the sea coast, the rigors of the climate, both winter and summer, and in every part of the country,—these are other things that mean more work and more difficult work for all those who carry on the public service. The idea that the carrying of the mails in such a territory, the equipping and patrolling of the coast in the interest of navigation, the collection and disbursement of revenues and the thou-

sand and one other services that are carried on for the people under government management, can be and are managed by a number of fourth-rate men lazing through the day in handsome, airy offices,—such an idea is so preposterous that it is a wonder that even the newspaper humorist does not gag as he tries to work it over once again into a fifty-cent jokelet.

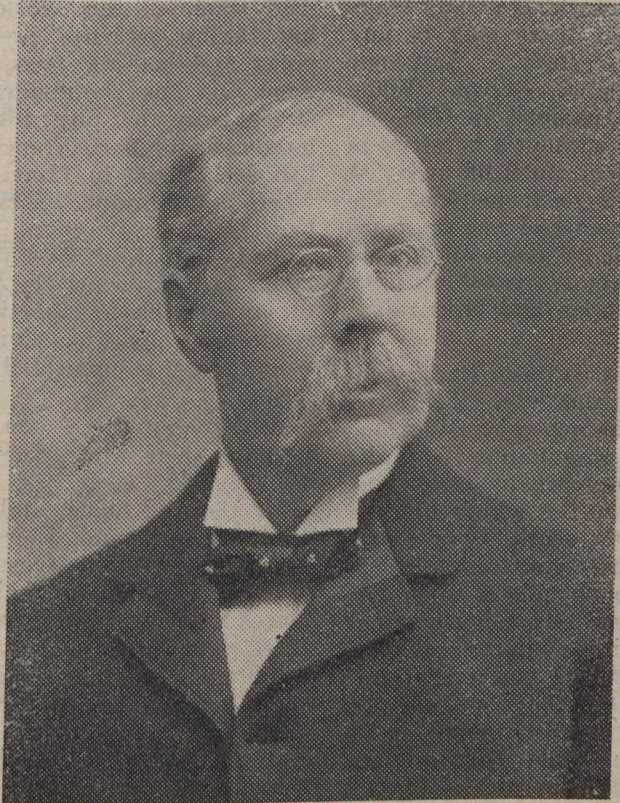
Take just a hasty glance at any branch of the public service and consider what it means in the way of work. Take, for instance, the one that is most central in the public gaze, the work of legislation, the machine in the operation of which are thrown out the sparks and flashes which are known to the public as "politics"—take the work of the Parliament of Canada as it shows itself through the efforts of the members of the civil service who attend upon it.

Consider what this mechanism is and what it does. It is made up of some three hundred and odd men from every part of Canada, over two-thirds of whom have to be chosen at least once in five years, chosen by a tremendous pother and pow-wow known as a general election. And, if a paper goes astray in that election, if any officer misses his instructions or fails in the interpretation of a law the complexity of which makes it the despair of the judges of the land, straightway the whole world is given to understand that the civil service is made up of senile idiots or rancorous partisans and that the country has gone to the demnition bow-wows. Can it be supposed that a man or two, picked at hap-hazard from the crowd, and attending to the matter in the intervals of a short and idle day, can get

this work of a general election put through? The wonder is that so small a staff as is maintained for the purpose can control this machinery and keep in place and in perfect security all the records that are made in the course of its mighty revolutions.

But suppose the men of Parliament all assembled—221 in the

neither so modest nor so considerate. Every member of the House is in receipt of demands for everything that the mind of man can think of,—and then some. Public works, statutory amendments, administrative favors—everything is demanded. And not merely do the demands come by letter, but deputations appear, dozens and scores of them.



DR. T. B. FLINT,
Clerk of the House of Commons.

House of Commons and 87 in the Senate. They are not sent to Ottawa to attend pink teas or swap election stories. There are people all over the country clamoring for changes in the laws. The pressure upon Parliament is terrific. True, many a citizen suffers in silence some grave injustice, not even venturing to send to Parliament his humble petition for redress. But others are

And the lobbyists—good and bad—they are all there.

If Parliament didn't work it would have to grow a skin like a rhinoceros to avoid being prodded and spurred to death. But Parliament does work. Right or wrong, well or ill, Parliament works hard, and the men who attend upon it, assisting its deliberations, keeping its records, and meeting its never-

ending wants, have about as much chance to go slow as does the calf hitched behind the farmer's wagon.

Parliament works on the average about six months in the year. It has an output of two large volumes of new laws, every word of which has had to be considered over and over by either house, every change or proposed change being meantime kept track of. Over any word in any of these laws, and at any stage of consideration, there may be any kind of trouble from a half-hour wrangle to a political crisis. When the House of Commons, in 1885, sat plumb through without a break from Monday afternoon until Saturday at midnight, talking all the time, the one subject considered was the word "Indian" in the Franchise Bill. And they didn't pass it even then until a lot more rumpus had been raised about it.

Besides the statutes, Parliament puts out reports galore. There are standing committees to consider and report upon many kinds of things. But if some member happens to think of some subject for which there is no committee, he straightway moves for a special committee, and, if granted, this body gets to work taking evidence and preparing a report like the rest. Parliament calls for papers on anything and everything. If it is suspected that Dougald McDougald, one time employee on a breakwater in Cape Breton, was paid \$1.75 a day instead of \$1.50 a day like his fellow-laborers, a return may be called for of all reports, correspondence, drawings, specifications, pay-rolls, and other documents relating to breakwaters in or near the Island of Cape Breton from Confederation to the present time. True, the work of preparing these returns falls upon officers in other departments, but the duty of receiving them, caring for them, keeping them from being mislaid by members whose one idea is to win points in the fiercely exciting

game in which they are engaged falls upon the officers of Parliament.

Parliament also has as part of its output—Hansard. This is a shellful of books closely printed and of forbidding appearance. Each House has its own Hansard. The words spoken in the debates are here recorded,—all of them. How true is that Scripture which says that of the making of books there is no end! And when all this work of debating, taking evidence, preparing reports and making laws, has been done in one language, it must straightway be put into another language, for both French and English are official in Canada, and nowhere is it more necessary to remember this fact than in Parliament. Nobody finds fault with the arrangement, but it means the duplication of an immense proportion of the work done by the civil servants whose work is connected with legislation.

And to get these men elected, to prepare their work, keep track of all they do, clear up everything after they go home, and keep shop all the year round, there are about 330 people all-told, from the clerks of the Houses in their dignified places at their several tables to the extra charwomen who sweep and scrub the paper-littered floor in the early hours after adjournment. Of this number, only about 150 are permanent employees, and these include messengers, watchmen, carpenters and other workmen and attendants of various kinds.

On the regular staff of the Senate are 32 people altogether, including the clerk and his staff, record-keepers in different branches, translators, messengers and others. The House of Commons, which, by reason of its greater membership and its more important place in legislative business, must work much longer hours and at much higher pressure, has 75 regular officers engaged in clerical work, some of a

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highly expert kind. The Clerk of the House, like his brother officer of the Senate, and Mr. Clerk's assistants, must be men of special ability and experience. The law clerk is not only a lawyer, but an expert in the peculiar work of drafting statutes,—and it is just as hard to write a good statute as it is to write a good poem, and a million times more important on the average. The translators, like those in the Senate, are called upon to do work of special difficulty owing to the technical nature of many of the documents which come before Parliament. And so with the other officers,—the work to be done is of the highest class of its kind, and the House of Commons is very impatient of any inefficiency in the work of its officers. Besides the 50 extra sessional messengers, and other employees needed for the session only, there is a considerable staff constantly engaged

in watching the place, in making repairs, and in the many duties of clearing up after one session and preparing for the next.

There is one very important branch of the work which applies equally to either House of Parliament, and that is the work of the Library. There are barely 17 people of all classes engaged in the work of caring for the greatest collection of literary works in all Canada. There are over a quarter of a million volumes in the place, and any one of them is liable to be called for at any moment during the session by some member who feels that, with the volume before him, he can utterly obliterate the argument of his hon. friend opposite. And when a call is sent to the Library for a book, the answer is expected back in something less than no time, for time and talk wait for no man.

A categorical statement of the organization of the above staffs is as follows:

(1) The Senate.

- Officers—5.
- Committees, Journals, Routine and Stationery Branch—6.
- Accountants' Branch—2.
- Post Office—2.
- French Translation—4.
- Miscellaneous—10.
- Special—3.

(2) The House of Commons.

- Officers—4.
- Journals' Branch—7.
- Votes and Proceedings Branch—3.
- Routine and Records—2.
- Committees—9.
- Law Branch—4.
- Office of Clerk of Crown in Chancery—3.
- Translation—10.
- Accountant's Branch—2.
- Stationery—3.
- Post Office and Blue Books—4.
- Reading Room—2.
- Debates Branch—10 Reporters and 12 Translators.
- Serjeant at Arms' Department—3.
- Messengers—11.
- Distribution Office—4.

Each one of the above branches would furnish ample material for an interesting descriptive article. The Library will receive such treatment at an early date.

THE CIVILIAN

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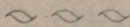
Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Nov. 18th, 1910

FOR THE CUSTOMS.

For three consecutive years the Customs Department has recognized in the estimates the need of a general levelling up of salaries to the changed condition of living expenses. Last year the increases granted on this score aggregated \$125,000.

The good work should go on, for the ground is by no means fully covered yet. Strictly between ourselves, we believe that it will go on, and that the estimates of the present year will give another and even better than usual lift to the Customs' pay sheets.



THE MERIT SYSTEM IS POPULAR.

The press speaks for the people, and governments and parliamentarians are prone to look to it when barometric information is desired.

President Taft's recent extension

of the system of appointments by merit over a large area of the post office service is endorsed by literally scores of newspapers in the United States. The San Francisco Post, the St. Paul Dispatch, the New Orleans Picayune, the Philadelphia Public Ledger, the Washington Times and Herald, the Boston Transcript, the New York Evening Post, are only a few of those which have devoted leading articles of thorough-going approval.

The Canadian government will receive equal support from press and people for similar action in Canada.

THE COUNTRY CAN AFFORD FAIR SALARIES.

For the first half of the present fiscal year Canada's trade has increased by nearly \$56,000,000, or 18 per cent., as compared with the corresponding six months from April to September inclusive last year.

The half year's trade totals \$360,274,850, or over \$66,000,000 more than the total annual trade of the Dominion thirteen years ago, the monthly increase averaging more than \$9,000,000 over the record figures of last year.

The customs revenue for the half year totalled \$35,347,705, an increase over last year of \$7,041,177. An additional evidence of the rapid commercial development of the country is shown by the fact that the importation of coin and bullion for the six months totalled \$4,410,952, this compared with \$1,550,987 for the corresponding period of last year.

The Printing Bureau Report.

The Civilian has not the space, nor is it necessary in view of the full accounts which have appeared in the daily press, to attempt any resumé of Mr. Murphy's epoch-making report on conditions in the Printing and Stationery Department.

The one feature of the report which stands out most clearly from the civil servants' point of view is the emphasis with which it charges the system rather than the staff with what may have gone amiss. There have been examples of incompetence or worse among the employees, but that is a thing which may happen anywhere. It happens periodically in our Banks and other great commercial enterprises, and no one draws any morals beyond the immediate circumstances. But Mr. Murphy has provided, not for a change in the personnel of the staff, but for a change in administrative methods throughout. In fact he goes out of his way — very properly under the circumstances — to speak appreciatively of the general body of the employees, which contains some of the most efficient and best known men in the whole service.

The inevitable result will be for good, and especially in that direction from which we have so much to gain, the education of public opinion. *The Civilian* is pleased to note running through the comments of nearly all the important newspapers in this connection a growing knowledge of the work of the service, and of its magnitude, with the unavoidable deduction that the men who are doing the work must perforce be hard and efficient workers. The Toronto Star affords almost the only unadulterated example of a large newspaper which still affects the jocular when it mentions the service, and whose profound contribution to the present discussion is the following:

"At Ottawa they spell Society with capital letters. If Canada can be said to have a court at all, it is undoubtedly situated there. The social pace is just a little faster at the capital, and more aspire to it; social distinctions and social rivalries are just a little more evident. And that, when all is said and done, is what appears to have been the matter with the Government Printing Bureau. It was honeycombed with social ambitions, which declined to be satisfied with the legitimate salary and the legitimate duties of a civil servant. Gentlemen's hours, and what are erroneously described as 'gentlemen's habits,' seem to have been insisted upon by a section of the civil servants in this branch of the Dominion Government. "Their days adream, their nights awake," they were unable to apply themselves to the country's business, even during the short period of each day which they condescended to place at its service."

"This," adds the Star, "is not a pretty picture" — a double-barrelled truth, for it is neither pretty nor a picture, but is in point of fact the mere nonsense of a space-filler who has never seen what he is writing about. The social whirl disturbs the machinery of the Government Printing Office in just about the same way that it disturbs the Star Printing Office. However, the Star as a consistent circulation-worshipper may be trusted to get its ear to the ground in the course of time and to discover that conventional clap-trap, however hoary with age, will not always pass for discussion of the civil service. We have quoted it only as a type that is fast waning and that lends point to the renewed interest which Mr. Murphy's report has awakened throughout the country in the civil service as an institution whose soundness and efficiency are a *sine qua non* of a great Canada.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Ottawa Civil Service Association.

Held in the Assembly Room of the Y.M.C.A., on the Evening of November 8th, 1910.

Meeting called to order at 8.15, the Vice-President, Mr. A. E. Caron, in the chair.

Minutes of the annual meeting of Nov. 9th, 1909, were read by the Secretary and confirmed.

The Secretary presented a report of the Executive for the past year, and suggested that it be received as read. Moved by Mr. Patching, seconded by Mr. Lewis, that the Secretary's report be adopted subject to a correction of the number of members as shown on Page 3.

The Treasurer's report was presented by the Secretary and laid on the table. Moved by Mr. McCracken, seconded by Mr. Burns, that the Treasurer's report be referred back to the Auditors for further consideration.

Moved by Mr. Dillon, seconded by Mr. Hayes, that the proposed amendments to the constitution be considered immediately; after some discussion the Chairman moved this motion out of order.

The election of officers was then proceeded with.

Moved by Mr. MacMillan, seconded by Mr. Brodeur, that Dr. J. G. Rutherford be President for the ensuing year, and there being no other nomination he was declared elected unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Dillon, seconded by Mr. Paré, that Mr. A. E. Caron be the First Vice-President for the ensuing year, and there being no other nomination he was declared elected.

Moved by Mr. Dillon, seconded by Mr. McLenaghan, that Mr. R. H. Coats be Secretary for the ensuing year. Mr. Coats, however, declined the nomination, and Mr. McPherson moved, seconded by Mr. Proc-

be nominated for the position. Messrs. Patching, Campbell, Hayes and Saunders were also nominated; they all retired in favor of Mr. MacMillan, who was declared elected.

Moved by Mr. Doyon, seconded by Mr. Paré, that Mr. J. R. Munro be Treasurer for the ensuing year. Messrs. Coats, Paré, Brittain and Dillon were also nominated, and retired in favor of Mr. Munro, who was declared elected.

Moved by Mr. Dillon, seconded by Mr. Lewis, that we, the Ottawa Civil Service Association, regret that Mr. R. H. Coats has seen fit to decline renomination as Secretary of the Association, and move that an honorarium of \$200 be granted to him for his services during the past year.—Carried.

The amendments to the constitution were then considered, and on motion of Mr. Dillon, seconded by Mr. Gorman, they were taken up and considered clause by clause.

Amendments 1 and 2, being amendments to clauses 7 and 8 of the constitution, were carried. Amendment 3 being amendment to clause 9 was on motion declared lost. Amendments 4, 5 and 6 were then carried. Amendment 7 was carried, the first three lines down to the word "thereof" being stricken out. Clauses 8, 10, 14, 16 were carried, clauses 11, 12 and 13 being lost, and clauses 9 and 15 being amended so as to read in consonance with the other amendments. Clause 17 was carried, the words "to be numbered 25" being stricken out. Mr. Watson's amendment was lost. The constitution as amended was then adopted as a whole on motion of Mr. Hay.

Mr. Dillon then moved that the tor, that Mr. Alexander MacMillan

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amendment of the constitution with reference to the office of Second Vice-President be regarded as in effect, and that election of a Second Vice-President as provided for be proceeded with. The motion was

carried. For the office of 2nd Vice-President Mr. Coats, Mr. Dillon and Mr. Campbell were nominated. Mr. Dillon and Mr. Campbell withdrew, and Mr. Coats was declared elected. The meeting then adjourned.

RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE OTTAWA C. S. ASSOCIATION.



J. G. RUTHER FORD, C.M.G.

At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

On the Soul and Such Things.

It is charged against Ella Wheeler Wilcox that she wrote a poem beginning,

My soul is a lighthouse keeper.

The evidence is circumstantial, since the poem as published began with the line,

My soul is a light housekeeper.

The glory of this second version may belong to Ella or to the printer. Let the hired critics fight it out. For my own part I would grudge the eminent lady poetess (I wish both these words retained in this sentence, Mr. Printer), I would grudge her no fame that might come by accident through a printer's error. Too seldom do they mete the Wilcoxes and the Weggss such measure. Many a time and oft, on the contrary, have I beheld an epoch-marking epigram of my invention translated by some printer into an epoch-ending epitaph on my intelligence. No table of errata, addenda or corrigenda can redeem a thought once sullied through the printer's negligence. Tables of errata, forsooth! It is at such tables that we eat our humble pi warmed over for a second meal.

But I must be calm and talk on the subject chosen for this fortnight's sermon. Let me repeat the text:

My soul is a light housekeeper.

It is a "nail on which I would hang a few thoughts," as the Rev. Obadiah was wont to say. You are all invited to the execution.

In the first place, what is the

difference, Mr. Johnsing, between a lighthouse keeper and a light housekeeper? The difference between a lighthouse keeper and a light housekeeper, Mr. Bones, is that one would guard the mariner and the other would marry the gardener, only she is already married and he refuses to supply carrots by the centsworth and to split a cabbage in two when a whole head lasts a week.

Light housekeeping, my friends, I may say, forsaking the vulgar mannerisms of the endman, is the apotheosis of the hand-to-mouth system of existence, the simple life without the bother of simplicity. It consists mainly in sleeping in a bookcase and cooking sausages over a kerosene lamp on a broiler made of hairpins. For unmarried girls, such as those in the civil service, this is like rehearsing the marriage ceremony, a pretty drama that may give place to reality at any time; but for wedded folks it is like stage life behind the scenes where the meagreness of the presentation is apparent in contrast to the life that is denied the actors.

So much for the thing taken literally. Let us seek its spiritual analogues. And here we find two classes of souls trying to solve or elude the problem of existence on a light housekeeping basis. One class chooses light housekeeping, the other has it chosen for them.

Had I not been so prodigal of my scanty store of Shakespeare on a former occasion, I would hold you up now to inform you that some souls are born light housekeepers, some achieve light housekeeping,

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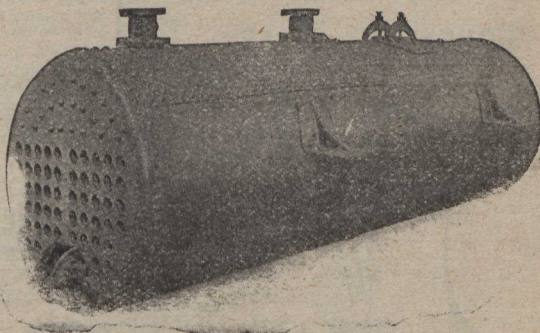
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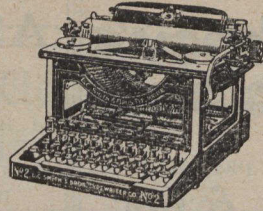
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and some have light housekeeping thrust upon them. Leaving the idiot and the poet (*nascitur, non fit*, you know) to represent the first of these latter groups, I may still give a Shakesperian touch to my classification. Let us then consider, first, those who choose, or achieve, light housekeeping; second, those who have light housekeeping chosen for or thrust upon them.

Featherwaite is representative of the first class. You know him by name if not by sight. His name outweighs his appearance. Yet he makes a fair usher at a wedding, as ushers go, and "joined to two he fails not to make three." His life has been devoted entirely to light housekeeping and to improvements therein. Speaking in terms of the soul, he now gets on without even a chafing dish, once considered the *sine qua non* of the cult. He obtains his thoughts and opinions, so far as his humming-bird soul needs such, ready to eat and in small parcels. It horrifies him to see a man take a square meal. "Bah Jove," exclaims Featherwaite, "what a liver he must have."

Men who tackle solid problems are grouped by Featherwaite all under the one term of Socialist. This damning epithet is applied alike to the man who aspires to be a school trustee and the man who wishes to nationalize the telegraphs. They think too much, such men are dangerous, would Featherwaite say if he knew the classics as well as he knows his Town Topics. And the danger is greater, in his eyes, to the thinker than to the community. "I have a little work to do to-night," said a friend of mine to Featherwaite one day. "Be careful," urged Featherwaite, "you shouldn't burn the candle at both ends."

There you have it. That is the light housekeeping philosophy in its most popular form. So studious is Featherwaite and his compeers in seeing that the two ends of the candle are not alight at the same time

that they never put match to either end, never know in fact that green mould is eating out the wax and the wick is returning to its indistinguishable primeval atoms.

"The game is not worth the candle," says Featherwaite, if you are not in the duplex-illuminating business, but only working the statutory eight hours. A bird in the hand is always worth two in the bush to Featherwaite, and the activity of the rolling stone is entirely disproportionate, in his judgment, to the quantity of moss accumulated in its circumvolutions.

Add to these articles of faith one other, viz., that a live dog is better than a dead lion, and I need hardly say more about Featherwaite. He has lived thirty years. Grant him a score or so more and he will have solved the one problem to which he has devoted himself, the problem of living undisturbed by thought. The Nirvana of second childhood will at last receive him into its ether of oblivion. He will lie down for an aeon or two till the Master of all light housekeepers shall set him at work anew with his single fork and a can of sardines. This labour will consume another aeon. *Sic semper tinannis*, and we come to the second division of our theme.

Who, now, are these that have light housekeeping thrust upon them? Many of them are night watchmen who cannot appreciate a home, since there is no home without lamp light, and many are fellows like Muggins whose plans are those of their wives. I am still speaking in terms of the soul.

Muggins is the son of a Methodist minister and had a year at the University. He entered the civil service because Pa was the spiritual adviser of Spouter, M.P. That was long before the days of Adam. He used to read Carlyle and Gunter, mostly Gunter, when he first came to Ottawa. Then he married. He does not even read *The Civilian* now. His wife reads the front pages of the

newspapers to him and such sections of the inside sheets as are edited by Murphy-Poulin Ltd.

Muggins is not a stranded wreck; he is rather a floating derelict that may drift into some friendly current and be borne homeward in time. This is as chance will have it. With some repairs and a better crew he might pass muster at Lloyd's once more.

But into what a state of vacuity has Muggins come, all because Mrs. Muggins is a light housekeeper! (The printer must be careful here among my shifting metaphors and not be writing "lighthouse keeper" as Mrs. Muggins' title, for she is neither a beacon set on a hilltop nor yet a candle under a bushel, but merely Mrs. N. G. Muggins.) She detests a man who "has his nose stuck in a book; you can never get a word out of him." By the same token she never gets a word out of Muggins, mainly because she does not want *words* from him. What she expects of him is his pay cheque properly endorsed and a due carefulness about bringing, or not bringing, mud on his boots into the 4x5 entry.

Has Muggins any opinions at all about things? Muggins, dear friends, has none. He gave up opinions along with Gunter. Yet he respects yours and wishes that he had room in his flat for some like them. Secretly he abhors the two-cups and two-chairs existence ordained by his bigger half. He has some remembrance left of that old home of his with its spare bed and extension table. Mrs. (Rev.) Muggins always had a clean napkin in reserve for the unexpected guest, and our Muggins has not entirely relinquished the dreams of entertaining angels unawares, although he has long since given up the practice of erecting altars to the Unknown God.

Mr. Featherwaite prides himself on his mode of life. It is his "achievement" as we found out.

Muggins is apologetic. "Well, now, can that be so?" he asks, or rather says, when you make some trifling remark to him. "I never thought of it in that way before. One must live and learn. I haven't the time, you know, to look these things up." Neither he has. He has time only to adjust the rear hooks in Mrs. Muggins' dress and to rinse the tumblers in the wash bowl.

I met Muggins walking alone by the canal one night. I was surprised. He told me his wife's mother was spending a few days with his wife and he was out for a stroll while they made up his bed in the bathroom. That hour by the canal was Muggins' holiday. He looked at the stars and said there were more of them than he thought. His intellect expanded in the open air and he ventured a guess at the number of the planets. He named Mars and felt abashed at his temerity. The next time I met him he was back in his shell. Mrs. Muggins had triumphed over the starlight.

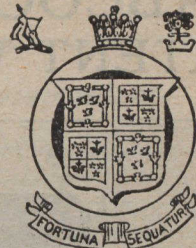
This theme offers many sides for treatment, but the upper half of my hour-glass is empty. I will add but one observation. Light housekeeping, after all, is better than sponging on the old folks, and it can't be worse than having your dinner served on the overgrown arm of a quick-lunch chair.

There has been a revival of the talk about a civil service commission under the Whitnew Government, and the improvement of the service is frequently under discussion. The one principle that is universally recognized is the desirability of permanence with efficiency. There can be no question that the improvement of the civil service depends largely on the degree to which it is made attractive to young men and to which it encourages them to remain in the service with the hope of promotion and distinction through the full development and use of their talents. In view of this the principle of promotion is one that should be basic in the consideration of all appointments.—The London Advertiser.



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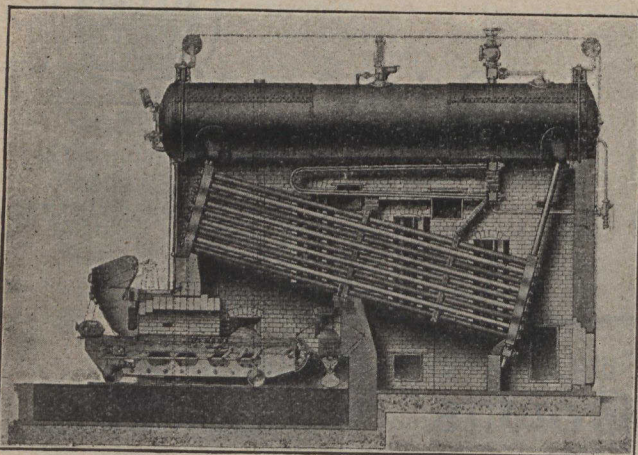
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P. O. DEPARTMENT SHOWS SURPLUS.

A surplus of \$743,210 is shown in the report of the postmaster general for the fiscal year ended 31st March, 1910. The net revenue for the year was \$7,958,547, the expenditure \$7,215,337. For the previous year the revenue was \$7,401,623, and the expenditure \$6,592,386. There was, therefore, an increase during the last fiscal year of \$556,924 in revenue and \$622,951 in expenditure. The surplus, however, is less by \$66,027 than in the year 1909, and \$358,616 less than the surplus of 1908, the banner year of the department. It is not expected that the figures of that year will be duplicated, as regards surplus, for a long time to come. Rather is it likely that with the extension of the rural mail delivery system, there will soon cease to be a surplus.

Here are some figures from the report which indicate the growth of the post office system during the year:—The number of post offices increased by 408, there being 12,887 in operation at the end of the fiscal year. The increase in the number of letters carried was 41,784,000, equal to ten per cent. The value of postage stamps sold was \$9,942,435, an increase of \$726,424 or nearly eight per cent. The total amount of money remitted through the mails by money orders and postal notes was \$66,871,576, an increase of \$9,130,954. The dead letter office received 317,996 letters, packages, etc., posted from Canada to British and foreign countries and returned as undelivered. Dead letters, postal cards, etc., returned from Canadian offices numbered 2,168,900. Toronto again leads in gross postal revenue, the receipts for the principal cities being: Toronto, \$1,709,498; Montreal, \$1,063,228; Winnipeg, \$695,051; Vancouver, \$257,361; Ottawa, \$210,139; Hamilton, \$202,921; Quebec, \$146,690; London, \$145,250; Halifax,

\$114,318; St. John, \$111,074; Victoria, \$96,807.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.

The Larger Issue.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Since Parliament prorogued ample opportunity has been afforded to civil servants and the public generally to discuss in *The Civilian* or in any of the organs of public opinion the merits of the draft Bill submitted by the Senate Standing Committee on Civil Service Administration, of which Senator Power was chairman, but no voice so far has been raised in opposition to the principles of that Bill. That of itself is significant of the fact that public opinion, as well as the entire civil service, is in favour of it. The chairman in submitting the report said that the Committee were pleased to be able to report that the Bill had met with the approval of the Civil Service Commissioners and of the Civil Service Association. This, together with the unanimous approval of the Standing Committee, coming after a thorough investigation, is certainly a strong endorsement. The Committee had before them the reasons presented in favour of superannuation by Dr. Farr in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1836, and cited the arguments used in favour of superannuation in England and elsewhere. The features of the Bill which present a marked and very necessary improvement upon the Bill recommended by the Royal Commission in 1907 are, briefly, that it makes more generous provision for widows and orphans, thereby removing one of the hardships too often experienced under the present superannuation act; fixes the age for compulsory retirement at 70 instead of 65, a necessary provision to meet the case of those who do not cease to be very useful in the service even after 65, the intention of the present Act being to retire after 60 any one reasonably considered incapable on account of age; raises the rate of contribution from four to five per cent., a provision possibly open to discussion with a view to reduction; and provides, among one or two other new departures, that "in the case of a civil servant, appointed before the coming into force of this Act, who previous to his appointment as a permanent member of the civil service had served for a year or more in a temporary capacity, and who elects to become a contributor under this Act, the time spent in such temporary capacity may be taken into

"account in calculating such servant's super-annuation allowance, the deficiency in deduction from his salary being made good "as hereinafter provided." For the method of making good this deficiency see the draft Bill, sec. 6, published in the *May Civilian*. This principle was recognized in the Superannuation Act (Imperial) of 1887, and in the Civil Service Act itself, sec. 7, and by a minute passed by the Treasury Board in 1884, which, however, was repealed in 1893, all of which you, sirs, pointed out in *The Civilian*.

To advance at this stage all the reasons or arguments in favour of superannuation would in this article be impracticable. They were ably presented in the Civil Service Memorial on the 19th March, 1909, presented to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who promised that the arguments would receive the careful consideration of the Government. To the principal argument that the retirement allowance is entirely inadequate was added the consideration that it offers altogether too little inducement for the best men to join the service. To the argument that all the important corporations have as a rule adopted the principle of superannuation may be added the newer one that pension acts in favour of the old and of teachers are being enacted by the parliaments of many countries, including Great Britain and Canada. When pensions which impose little or no obligation upon the recipient are being favoured it is high time to favour such a Superannuation Act as the one drafted by Senator Power under the present circumstances.

CIVIL SERVANT.

Oct. 25, 1910.

A Prize Competition Proposed.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

In these days of "slap-dash" business communications and abbreviated American spelling it is refreshing that the different Government departments still retain the ancient, conservative and dignified, yet none the less clear and definite, style of correspondence.

It naturally follows that *The Civilian* (unofficial organ of the service though it may be) is also severely literary and dignified, for does it not always spell "neighbour" and "labour" with a "u"? and, furthermore, it never refers to news (however interesting) as having been "gotten."

The inference from the foregoing is that if *The Civilian* offered a prize (it need not necessarily be a large one) for the best essay upon some national question affecting civil servants or the Government, their employers, the competition amongst a class who in their correspondence have to uphold the dignity of a Government would be keen, whilst the standard of the papers sent in would no doubt be high.

If the above suggestion were carried out by having, say yearly or half-yearly, competitive essays under the auspices of *The Civilian*, I am sure that the interest of civil servants in the work of the Government which they serve and in civil service matters generally would be stimulated.

Yours faithfully,
"A MERE CIVILIAN."

Just so.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Your suggestion on the front page of the last *Civilian* re the embellishment of government reports by suitable covers is an excellent one. I gather that what you mean to ask is why should all the good things in a "blue book" be on the inside and none on the outside?

Yours,

QUERY.

A Friend Gives us Genial Encouragement.

The Civilian having written a letter of thanks to a contributor who had sent us some excellent matter recently, received the following breezy reply:

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I did not expect any acknowledgment of my contribution. I considered its appearance in type sufficient expression of appreciation of merit. Certainly I never thought for a moment that *The Civilian* could afford to pay; and, as far as I can see, I can't imagine the paper being able to pay contributors for some little time yet. Of course, I know nothing about that. No doubt when payment is made, even if small, the general quality of matter will be improved; but to me there is much that — though I am no critic — could hardly be improved upon, such as the editorial matter and "At the Sign of the Wooden Leg," though the last-named is perhaps a little too academic in its style and perhaps a little too "literary" and subtle in its humour to be appreciated altogether by the average mind.

I think that what *The Civilian* needs now is a decent, attractive cover. I don't, however, see any real necessity for the beaver. I think the beaver about the most inartistic proposition there is. What I'd like to see is a MAN,—the magnificent, virile figure of a well-proportioned, well-developed, hard-as-nails MAN in the first flush of his prime, not one of these made-to-order-fashionable-Greek-hero-Gibson-self-sufficient-dough-heads who "inhabit the back pages of the magazines"; but a man, who, in his form and formidableness, would stand for labour, or, if you like, WORK. His clothes, — his boots, trousers and shirt, might be so selected and arranged that he could represent practically all the branches of open-air labour or work in Canada,—the mines, the fisheries, the farm; and these various

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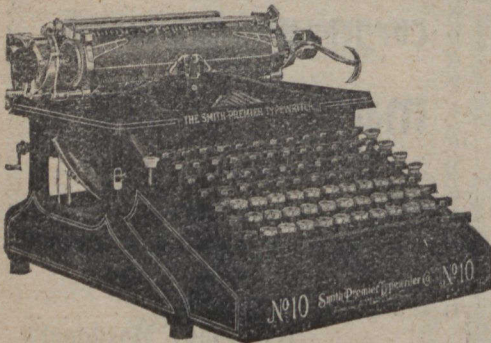
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branches of industry might be so represented in outline in the background as to help to convey the general idea. In faint but clear outline in the very back of the background might be shown the "Buildings." Of course, this arrangement doesn't show the "government clerk" at work; and if that is the idea you would have to have another figure altogether; because, of course, the average clerk isn't built on those heroic lines, and of necessity can't develop so much muscle and brawn; and he isn't allowed to get down to belt and shirt sleeves. You can't make a very heroic picture out of a man sitting at a desk or a typewriter. By the way, why not have a cover showing a *Beaver*, wearing a high collar and a "beaver" working away at a high desk or a typewriter. The magazines (the back pages already referred to) have a shy at making the clerk a hero; you know the youth; he is bigger than Jim Jeffries, his shoulders are magnificent, like his profile, he holds a sheet of paper and regards it with gravity, while the artist has apparently striven to make him look humanly intelligent in the eyes of the immaculate miss who sits patiently at a typewriter waiting for the dictated wisdom that is to fall from that cupid's bow, after getting a bump on that Napoleonic chin.

If the Almighty had offices in his view, I don't think he could have intended that anything masculine should spend the day inside of them; and, while it may take some time yet, yours truly is going to hike upon the first good safe opportunity, *entre nous*. Also D.V.

Thanking you for your kind note,
Sincerely yours,

"Outsiders" and Superannuation.

To the Editors of the "*Civilian*"
Dear Sirs;

Will you kindly state in this or a subsequent issue, the salient features of the draft superannuation bill prepared by a Committee of the Senate as respects the members of the service who have been transferred from the outside to the inside service. As one of these who has served many years in the outside service, it will be a veritable godsend if a scheme of superannuation is devised to include this class

Yours,
OUTSIDE.

Under the provisions of the draft Bill recommended by the senate, "Outsiders" serving in an established capacity shall be eligible for superannuation. (see sec. 2, sub. sec. B.)

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Montreal

Provision is made in section 16 whereby the time spent by a civil servant in a temporary capacity may be taken into account in calculating his superannuation allowance.

Section 27, sub-section 6, reads as follows:

"In the case of a civil servant appointed before the coming into operation of this Act who, previous to his appointment as a permanent member of the civil service, had served for a year or more in a temporary capacity and who elects to become a contributor under this Act, the time spent in such temporary capacity may be taken into account in calculating such servant's superannuation allowance, a deduction of five per centum of his average pay for each year of such temporary employment being made from his retiring allowance; unless he sees fit to make good the deficiency in one or more payments before such deduction becomes payable."

A full report of the Interior Dept. Banquet, the most successful entertainment of its kind ever held in the Service, will appear in the next CIVILIAN.

The Fortnight in Sport.

A Review, with comments, of the leading events in current Canadian Athletics.

By "Cashel Byron"

The great football struggle in Central Canada is now over, so far as the two major leagues are concerned, and the winning clubs are those of Toronto University in the Interecollegiate series, and the "Tigers" of Hamilton in the Rugby Union. "Varsity's" victory has been most signal,—they not having suffered a single defeat, while the Tigers have been beaten but once in six matches.

This result will make the play-off for the Dominion championship extremely interesting. This great match will take place in Hamilton on Nov. 26th, and will no doubt attract an enormous crowd. For many years Hamilton has had a strong team in football, and this year's seems the best of the past decade.

Speaking of crowds, that which witnessed the Queen's-Varsity match at Toronto on Nov. 5 established a record for Toronto football — at least so far as receipts were concerned — the "gate" representing \$2,600. The previous record was \$1,700. These amounts, however, dwarf into insignificance when compared with the big Yale-Harvard and Yale-Princeton annual fixtures, when \$40,000 is not an uncommon total to be received.

Ottawa teams have not won any of the honours this season, although the City XIV have captured the coveted second place in the I.R.U., having tied with the Argos for that position. The Ottawa College team

has had a most disastrous year, not having won a single match. How different a record from that of 15 or 20 years ago, when Father Fallon was wont to coach his team to a Canadian championship, year after year! Exactly 20 years ago the writer witnessed an historic struggle on the College grounds between the latter team and Montreal, when the game ended in a draw, 12-12,—and the College thus retained the championship, unbeaten.

Last year, when Varsity won the championship, and put such a dint into the Ottawa escutcheon, many followers of the game attributed the final victory almost entirely to the splendid work of Smirle Lawson, the university "half." This year this noted player has been on the shelf, and yet Varsity has reached the top place again. It simply goes to show that however good a man may be, some one can usually be found to take his place. And this we see exemplified in other walks of life than athletics.

And now the various hockey leagues throughout Canada are organizing for the fray. The salary question seems to be a live one. The expense question has been to a certain extent simplified by the far distant clubs of Cobalt and Haileybury withdrawing into a little league of their own. The "boom" days of these towns being over, there is hardly sufficient population to warrant them continuing in the big leagues.

While professional hockey seems to have come to stay, there is ample room for a good amateur league, and it is to be hoped that the trustees of the Allan Cup, the emblem of the amateur championship, will adhere to the strict rulings they have given regarding adequate expense money. There are surely enough young men left who will play hockey—and good hockey—without any inducement from the box office.

The contention made in these columns in the last issue that football under the English Rugby rules was less severe than the game as it is played in Ontario and Quebec, received a rude shock in a recent match between the Wanderers of Halifax and the Dalhousie University team. These clubs play the English game, and in this particular match a young lawyer, Mr. R. W. McLellan, playing halfback for the winning Wanderer team, collided with an opposing player and received such injuries to his spine that he

died some three days afterwards. The event has cast a gloom over the city by the sea. The Wanderers won the match and the championship of the Maritime Provinces.

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Justice Dept. :—Hon. Horace Harvey to be Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Alberta.

Naval Service :—Eugene Lapointe to Div. 2B; H. H. Lawson to Div. 2B; Commander Wm. S. Frowd to be Chief Engineer, Halifax dockyard; L. Jos. Beausoleil to Div. 1B.

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Inland Revenue Dept. :—J. F. McDonald of Collector, Dawson.

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Post Office :—F. Lough, Winnipeg, to 1st class (on probation); J. Z. Johnson, Calgary, to sen. 3rd class (on probation); F. W. Pheasant, Toronto, to jun. 3rd class (on probation); Mrs. L. D. Davison, Halifax, to jun. 3rd class (on probation); A. Summers, Winnipeg, to jun. 3rd class (on probation); E. Gravel, Montreal, to jun. 2nd class (on probation); R. H. G. Hutty, Toronto, to sen. 2nd class (on probation); Edouard Gravel, Montreal, to sen. 3rd class (on probation); T. Anderson, Vancouver, to jun. 3rd class (on probation); G. A. Venner, Edmonton, to sen. 3rd class (on probation).

Transfers.

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