

# THE CIVILIAN

A FORTNIGHTLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA

NEMO SIBI VIVIT.

## FEATURES

- The Annuities Branch.
- Should Superannuation Include Benefits for Widows and Children ?
- The Late E. P. Stanton.
- Civilian Portraits - Major E. W. Hubbell.
- Editorials :—The Principle of Promotion, etc.
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# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. V.

MAY 31, 1912.

No. 3

## The Annuities Branch.

### The Work of the Civil Servants Who Deal with the Subject of Old Age Annuities.

The *Civilian* hereunder continues the series of articles it has in hand dealing with the more important Departments and Branches of the Canadian Civil Service. The object of these articles is in part to educate the public as to the nature and importance of the work carried on by the Service, but also to create in civil servants themselves a keener appreciation of the great machine to which they belong.

The question of providing for people in old age is one that commands the attention of thinkers and statesmen everywhere. Germany's system of old age pensions is the subject of many disquisitions in philosophical societies and journals and of many lively political debates in almost every civilized country. The feeling over the old age pension law of Great Britain still runs high, and, in a very short time, when results begin to show themselves, one side or other will be raising the shout, "I told you so."

Canada has made an effort to settle this question on lines different from those followed in any other country, and so we have the Annuities Branch as a part of the Dominion civil service. This branch was established as the result of the work of Sir Richard Cartwright, and was at first made a part of the department of which he was the head, the Department of Trade and Commerce. But the possibility of transfer to another department seems to have been contemplated from the first, for the law establishing the service declares that "Minister" means, the Minister appointed by the Governor in Council to administer this Act." It was the intention, indeed, of the late

Government to introduce a measure for the elevation of the branch to the full dignity of a department, and a bill for this purpose was drafted under the Minister's direction by the law clerk of the Commons but was lost in the shuffle during the exciting times of last summer. Under the present administration, the Branch has been transferred to the Post Office department, as it is believed that the system can be more easily popularized and better administered through the machinery of that department than by any other means. The new minister in charge of the branch, the Hon. L. P. Pelletier, has shown himself an able administrator and an enthusiastic supporter of the system.

Canadian government annuities provide a plan of voluntary old age pensions for every person domiciled in Canada, subject to the proviso that the Minister is given discretion to refuse to make the contract if he thinks there are good grounds for that refusal. The system works out like life insurance in that each person buying an annuity is charged exactly as much as the average annuity of the kind desired will cost. But in figuring the cost no account is taken of the expense of managing

the system, and all the money received is assumed to earn compound interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, and the government pays on that basis. As the system is one of old age pensions, no annuity is paid by the government until the beneficiary reaches the age of fifty-five years. But payments toward the purchase of an annuity may be made at any time, and, of course, the longer the money is left in the government's hands, the more the party benefits by the increment of compound interest.

Government annuities run from \$50 a year to \$600 a year, no lower and no higher. But within this range they are of practically infinite variety. A person may buy an annuity for himself or for another; husband and wife, or any two persons, may have a joint annuity payable until the death of the one surviving the longest; the annuity will be paid for life, if desired, or for a term of years, if preferred; the annuity contract can be so made as to provide that if the proposed annuitant dies before the time when the pension is to begin, the money paid will be handed back to the proper parties with compound interest. But, great as are the varieties of pension, still greater are the ways in which those pensions can be bought. In effect, it comes to this: The government will accept any payment or payments for the purchase of an annuity, will "improve" the money at four per cent compounded, and will give the party as much annuity as his money will pay for.

It can easily be seen that in this system we have a flexible, adaptable plan under which the government goes into the annuity business about on the same lines as those on which it carries on the savings bank business. Nobody is too poor, nobody is too far away, or too isolated, or too ignorant or unbusinesslike, to become the beneficiary of this system. The fact that a person is "domiciled in Canada" fits him to be a govern-

ment annuitant in old age, and he will receive as an annuity the very utmost cent that the contributions made on his behalf will buy. To each purchaser a policy, or contract, is issued as soon as he makes his first payment, whether the amount of that payment be figured in thousands of dollars or in cents.

Whole libraries have been written on the questions whether a government old age pension system should be voluntary or the reverse, and whether the parties should contribute to the benefits they are to receive, and if so in what proportion. The Canadian system answers these questions in the way indicated. Nobody gets an annuity unless it is paid for, and the government contributes nothing except the expense of management and the deficit—if such there be—between what the money earns and the four per cent that is allowed.

It is a fact universally recognized that the public are "queer." The fact that a thing is beneficial to the public is no guarantee that it will be widely popular. Folks will flock past the free library or art gallery to fight for a chance to pay their way into some silly show.

This is the quality of human nature which, from the first, it has been recognized that the government annuities system would have to reckon with. The big work of the Annuities Branch, therefore, has been to popularize the system. At first a corps of lecturers and exponents was employed and sent throughout the country to hold public meetings. A systematic campaign through the press was also maintained, the Branch seeking the co-operation of all newspapers in making known what the system had to offer. As in the case of such other services as the Seed Branch and the Experimental Farms, communication with the Annuities Branch was freed of postal charges, and a system of free postal cards was used to make it as easy as possible for anybody who had the

subject of annuity in mind to make his wants, or possible wants, known to those in charge. This propaganda is still in full force, except that the lecture system has been abandoned. It is felt that by giving the postmasters throughout the country some reward for the work, their united exertions will afford the most powerful means within the control of the government to bring into use throughout Canada this voluntary system of old age pensions. It is for this reason mainly that the transfer of the Annuities Branch to the Post Office Department has been made. It is understood that the government is now perfecting a plan under which postmasters will be given a commission on annuity contracts and will be encouraged to use their offices, so far as is consistent with the work of His Majesty's mails, to popularize government annuities.

The Annuities Branch is housed in the Trafalgar building, on the corner of Queen and Bank streets. The staff is small and the work heavy. An idea of what has been done is afforded by the fact that in the four years of its operation the Branch has succeeded in making over 2,800 annuity contracts and has taken in actual cash to the total of about \$1,400,000. Money is now coming in at the rate of about \$500,000 year. As a great deal of this comes in in small monthly payments,—and not so very regularly either, in many cases—it will be seen that the work of correspondence, checking and banking is very considerable.

But the business actually taken is only the beginning of what has been tried for. Here we have a new system—new not only in Canada but in the world. Less than four years has elapsed since the institution opened its doors. Immense work of preliminary organization had to be completed; a whole system of office management, books and forms had to be prepared; elaborate calculations had to be made to find the basis of the rates to be charged for annuities;

and, above all a big propaganda had to be prepared and maintained so as to arrest the attention of the public and win them over to a system of thrift which means long years of self-denial and saving for a benefit which comes only in the future.

Space will not permit a detailed account of the work as it now goes on. The first, and in some sense the most important, is the work in the field. Personal addresses are secured by means of directories and otherwise, and circulars specially designed to attract the favorable attention of the class to be appealed to are prepared. A battery of multigraphs, in the use of which some members of the staff are wonderfully expert, turn out thousands of these circulars and these are sent throughout the Dominion. A great deal of this work, of course, like any other advertising, fails of direct result; but the general effect must be not only to make known the existence of the Annuities system but also to enlighten the people as to the ways in which the system can be useful to them. The Branch has its own actuary. Peculiar cases—and such are constantly arising—call for special calculations, and if a person in Canada wants an annuity on any terms, the Annuities Branch is ready to make an offer, based upon expert and scientific calculation, to do thus and so for so much. The keeping of accounts for the Branch, it will readily be understood, is important and onerous work. And it will increase more rapidly than the business increases, for at present the money nearly all comes in, but as the paying of annuities increases, there will be millions of outgo to be handled every year. The correspondence is mainly with the public direct and involves the explanation of many technical matters to people most of whom are very much in the dark about the working of this system. Upon this part of the work a great deal of the success of the system depends. The progress the system is making is

proof that the people are favorably impressed by the letters they receive from the Branch.

The work of the Annuities Branch is in charge of the gentleman under whom it was organized, Mr. S. T. Bastedo, who has shown not merely the qualities of zeal and efficiency characteristic of the great majority of the Civil Service, but also marked originality in adapting the new system to the public requirements and in so presenting the Annuities plan to the public as to win a great and increasing measure of public confidence, understanding and support. He brought to the work a knowledge obtained as the Ontario manager, for a year or more, of the Annuity Co. of Canada, which withdrew from

business when the Government entered the annuity field. The staff has been selected and organized wholly under the rules of the Civil Service Act of 1908, and the zeal and efficiency with which the work of the Branch is carried on testify to the advantages of the present system. The full membership of the staff is as follows:

S. T. Bastedo, superintendent.

E. G. Blackadar, actuary.

A. F. Bill, accountant.

E. R. Swettenham, Misses Margaret McKain, Alice Houston, Helen Houston, Margaret Fleming, Helen Jones, H. Pearl Arkley, Lulu Moyer, Eleanor Rivington and Katherine McDonald, clerks.

Ernest Grimes, messenger.

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## Should Superannuation Include Benefits for Widows and Children ?

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Should a scheme of Civil Service superannuation include benefits for widows and children? If so on what principles should these benefits be determined?

Almost everyone unfamiliar with the new problems and the new forces which invariably arise incidental to the employment of a large number of individuals whether by the government of a country or by any other large employer are apt to consider anything in the nature of superannuation as a mere gratuity to the employees. In fact, familiar as civil servants are or ought to be with the civil service system and much as superannuation has been discussed during the last few years there are many civil servants who to this day would regard superannuation as a concession by the government, as a favour granted, and not as an institution devised for the purpose of increasing and maintaining the efficiency of the service, not only for the present but in a truly permanent and lasting manner; and

even those who have already embodied as a working article in their economic creed the necessity for some measure of superannuation may be disposed to regard the extension of benefits to widows and children as a sort of charity, as a compassionate concession for which no return would accrue to the government.

In order to determine whether this is the case or not it will be helpful to state the main working processes by which it is generally conceded that schemes of superannuation do increase efficiency and effect economy. These are as follows:

(1) by inducing well-educated and promising young men to enter the service of their country as a life-calling;

(2) by retaining the services of efficient and experienced employees throughout their whole working life, especially those who acquire knowledge and experience, making them exceedingly valu-

able to employers outside the government; and

(3) by facilitating the elimination from the service of those who fall into permanent ill-health in early and middle life, and the absolute elimination of those who arrive at a certain assigned old age, say 65 years.

There may be other objects which a scheme of superannuation may in some cases be intended to subserve, but the foregoing would appear to be the main primary purposes.

That a provision for old age is a strong inducement to entering any employment there can be no question in the mind of any one who has thought sufficiently about the matter. To make this clear consider the following: Practically all the railroads of England—if not all—have schemes of superannuation. This being so what chance has, say, a new railway of obtaining and retaining efficient employees if it does not likewise establish a scheme of superannuation? It is only by the inducement of considerably higher wages that men could be obtained at all and then the most efficient of them would from time to time seek employment on roads maintaining superannuation systems. Likewise it may be asked what chance has the government of Canada of enlisting the best youth of the country in its service when every important bank and the larger railways have schemes of superannuation? This, however, is not the whole case. The schemes which our banks have, although perhaps not without their defects, contain most liberal provisions for widows and children. Consequently if the government is going to compete successfully in the labour market—in the efficient labour market—they must offer to their prospective employees, in addition to fair wages, a scheme of superannuation at least as well calculated to meet the needs of their employees and dependents.

If it requires little or no argument to produce the conviction that superannuation is an inducement to entering an employment it certainly requires less to prove that it is a strong inducement making for the retention of the efficient employee.

How now does the government of Canada compare with our banks in this respect? What inducements do they offer making for the retention of the efficient and experienced employee? Out of about 8,000 employees less than 2,000 have a measure of superannuation although inadequate. These 2,000 have been in the service for 14 years and upwards. It is safe to say that there are few resignations from among them. Their interest in the fund is already large and is increasing, which means a large and increasing inducement to stay. If in addition to the benefits granted under the present schemes provision were made for widows and children of employees it would be still more to their interest to remain in the service. In fact, except in exceptional circumstances there could be no reason for such employees ever leaving at all. The remaining 6,000 employees are in a rather peculiar position. It may seem strange that so far from offering them an inducement to stay the government actually offers them what is in reality is a bonus to leave the service, the amount of this bonus being the accumulated amount to their credit in the Retirement Fund. During the first few years of service this bonus is not large. Thus if an employee entered at a salary of say \$800 at the end of one year he would have, say, \$40.80 to his credit which of course could not be a very strong inducement to his resigning. But after, say, 10 years our employee might, if he got along fairly well in the service have, say, for sake of argument, \$1,000 in the Retirement Fund. At the end of 10 years an employee has attained a considerable degree of

efficiency and experience, and it may be said he has attained this degree of efficiency and experience at a considerable cost to the government. It costs no little time and labour on the part of older employees to get the newer ones into line, and yet when this has been fairly accomplished the government offers a quite substantial cash inducement to his leaving the service, and this inducement increases with the efficiency and experience of the employee. True it is that the amount to the credit of each in the Retirement Fund represents the accumulated deductions made from the employees pay, but none-the-less in its actual workings it has the same effect as if the government were to offer as remuneration to its employees the net salaries they now pay plus a cash bonus on leaving the service, for in no case can an employee use any part of his savings so long as he remains in the service no matter for however worthy a purpose. Taking into account the way in which this law affects the service one is inclined to call it "comic legislation." That such a measure should have stood on the statute books of this country for 14 years shows at least that we are still in the experimental stage so far as really intelligent legislation is concerned. The main point, however, is that the Retirement Fund is worse, much worse, than nothing as a means of retaining good men in the service. The usual superannuation schemes are good and if well-advised provision were made for the employees' dependents it is hard to see that anything more could be done.

It remains to consider how the extension of benefits to widows and children would facilitate "the elimination from the service of those who fall into permanent ill-health in early and middle life and the absolute elimination of those who arrive at a certain assigned old age, say, 65 years." Although the objects al-

ready dealt with are great this, the last, is perhaps the greatest of all, for if some system is not devised to this end a service becomes filled up with the broken-down and the decrepit. It is all very well to say that the civil service law should provide for the dismissal of employees when they became unable to properly perform their duties either from ill-health or old age, but as pointed out in the last number of *The Civilian* this cannot be accomplished without some measure of superannuation. The official or officials charged with the duty of making such dismissals simply will not do so if it imposes serious hardships on the individual. This fact is perhaps one of the strongest reasons for superannuation, that is, the fact that responsible officials are none-the-less human beings with human passions. Now if consideration is given to the hardship likely to be imposed on an individual by his dismissal it is at once evident that what would be no hardship or but an insignificant inconvenience in the case of an unmarried man would in the case of a married man be a more serious hardship and in the case of an employee with a wife and a number of children the hardship would be still more serious. Thus we see that if a measure of superannuation is to be really efficient in removing those who fall by the way-side the benefits must in each case, to some extent at least, be determined according to the needs of the individual. That is, an allowance should be made to the employee himself; if he has a wife an additional allowance should be made to her, and if he has children a still further allowance should be made to each child. If the dependents of an employee are not thus taken into account the benefit, however devised, will be larger than necessary in some cases and in others too small to accomplish the desired object. Moreover, by determining the benefits in this way one of the greatest

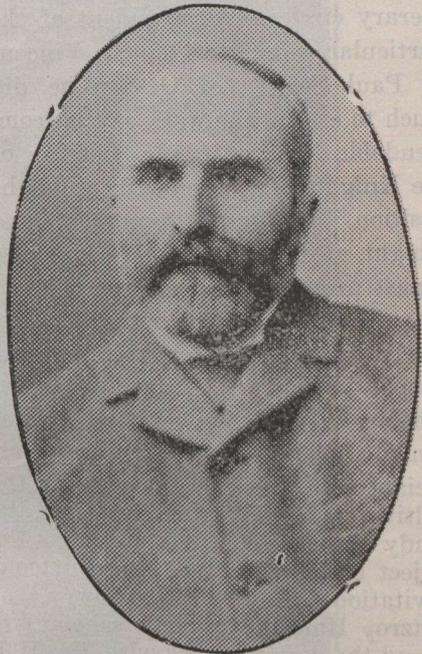
defects in most schemes is at once removed, namely, the small allowance in event of ill-health during early years of service. Under our existing schemes after an employee has served for 10 years should he fall into ill-health his allowance in most cases would not exceed \$200 per annum. While this would be a material item in the case of a single man it would be of little use in the case of an employee with a family. By increasing the allowance to an employee on account of his wife making an additional allowance to each child of, say, 1-20th of the final salary (payable to age 18 years) the provision in event of ill-health would be materially supplemented for that period of life during which the allowance to the employee is small and by the time he had been long in the service his own allowance would be large and his children would have passed the age at which they would be entitled to an allowance. Thus by a fair consideration of the actual facts of the case one is forced to admit that in the interests of efficiency and economy not only should benefits be extended to the widows and children of an employee after he is gone but that also during his lifetime provision should be made for his wife and children in the event of his falling into ill-health, and the more liberal these benefits are the more economical will the measure be, provided they are not so liberal as to lead to the retirement of those in good health.

If the arguments herein advanced are valid it may be taken as proved that the extension of benefits to wives, widows and children of employees consummates the accomplishment of every object which superannuations schemes should be devised to accomplish.

### THE LATE E. P. STANTON.

In the unexpected death of Mr. E. P. Stanton, Chief Clerk and Superintendent of the Postage Stamp Branch, at Fitzroy Harbour, on the 24th ultimo, the Department loses a valuable officer, and the service an esteemed member. The late Superintendent was a man of the old school. With Burns he believed that,

“The rank is but the guinea’s stamp;  
The man’s the gowd for a’ that.”



THE LATE E. P. STANTON.

To none did he turn a deaf ear who came to him for advice or guidance. It was, therefore, not surprising that he had hosts of friends and no enemies.

The deceased was born in Galway, Ireland, on March 25th, 1854. Coming to Canada at an early age, he with a brother, the late Father Stanton, located at Smith’s Falls. Shortly afterwards he went to Kingston, and in 1874 was appointed to the Railway Mail Service of the Post Office Department. Not content with

the life of a mail clerk (a class of employes of the Department which in after years had his most sympathetic interest and support) Mr. Stanton fitted himself for the position of Secretary to the late Colonel White, then Deputy Postmaster General, in which capacity he served for some years. On September 1st, 1908, he was appointed to the position he occupied at the time of his death. The deceased was well known in fraternal, philanthropic and literary circles. As president of the particular council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Ottawa he did much to extend the work of that commendable society. As a member of the Knights of Columbus he held the position of Past Deputy Grand Knight of that order. He was also a past president of St. Patrick's Literary and Scientific Society. He also served as a trustee on the Separate School Board. A good classical scholar, the late Superintendent was a man whom it was a privilege to associate with. In fact his zeal for the cultivation of his favorite pastime, the study of the gaelic language, was the object of his accepting the courteous invitation of Rev. Mr. Lowry, of Fitzroy Harbor, (a gaelic scholar) to spend the day, together with Mr. J. J. McGee, at the manse.

As Superintendent of the Postage Stamp Branch no detail of duty was too trivial for his attention, and all subjects on which he was asked to report received the utmost care and thought before being submitted to his superiors. Gifted with a memory beyond the average, he was never at a loss to remember the action taken on any matter, and the time of its occurrence. Cultured and courteous, he was at all times approachable. He was a type of the Christian gentleman.

### OUR INSIDE SERVICE PORTRAITS.

Major Ernest Wilson Hubbell, C.E., D.L.S., Chief Inspector of Surveys, was born at Brockville, Ont., the 5th day of November, 1862. Educated at the Royal Military College of Canada, graduated June, 1881. Entered the employ of the Dominion government July, 1881, as Assistant Engineer on the Murray and Trent Valley Canals, and in the deepening of the Galops rapids, in the St. Lawrence river. In January, 1883, he accepted a position at Ottawa in the Technical Branch of the Department of the Interior. Major Hubbell was the first graduate of the R.M.C. to be exempt from the preliminary examination to study for a Dominion Land Survey. This concession, is much appreciated by graduates desirous of becoming surveyors. In 1884, he passed his final examination as Dominion land surveyor, and re-entered the Topographical Surveys Branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa.

During the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, he was first lieutenant in F. company Midland Battalion, under the late Lt. Col. Williams. In July, 1888, he was promoted to the rank of Captain in the Canadian Militia. He was promoted to the rank of Field Officer in 1902.

Major Hubbell has filled many important positions in the different camps of military instruction, among others, Adjutant a number of times with infantry regiments, Brigade Major, Captain and Adjutant of field batteries, Brigade Adjutant of the 3rd Artillery Brigade, Statistical and Orderly officer on the divisional staff. Major Hubbell has spent many years surveying throughout the Northwest Territories and his practical knowledge of that vast country, is exceedingly extensive and valuable to his department. For the past 20 years he has been a mem-



Major ERNEST WILSON HUBBELL, C.E., D.L.S.

ber of the permanent staff of Surveyors of the Topographical Survey Branch of the Department of the Interior. In 1907 he was appointed Inspector of Surveys. In February, 1907, the Dominion Land Surveyors Association was formed, of which he was elected president, and re-elected

again the following year. In 1911, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Province of Saskatchewan. On the 1st of January, 1912, he was transferred to the inside service, and appointed Chief Inspector of Surveys of the Dept. of the Interior, for the Dominion of Canada.

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THE CIVILIAN,  
P. O. Box 484, Ottawa

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the Civil Service are invited and will re-  
ceive careful consideration.

Ottawa, May 31, 1912

## THE PRINCIPLE OF PROMOTION

Civil Servants are not promulgating a creed of selfishness when they protest that the "plums" in the way of good appointments should go by preference to themselves—that the upper ranks of the service should in the great majority of cases be recruited from the lower. It is the simple truth that any other principle will breed disintegration all along the line. It is all very well to say that when a vacancy of importance occurs it is the duty of the Government and of the Commission to cast about in every quarter for the best man available and to bring him to the work even from the ends of the earth. In a particular instance and from a detached point of view such action may result in the securing of exceptional talent and in the filling of the position in question in the

best possible way. But the point is that even a case like this is not detached and particular; it must be regarded in a broad way and with reference to the efficiency of the service machine as a whole. Let it once be understood that the fact of being already in the service, of having faithfully and long performed a task however elementary, confers no *right* to advancement, and the deadliest possible blow will have been struck at the public interest in and through the service. Is the word "right" just used too strong? We do not think so. We do not think there is a large private employer anywhere who does not admit as much—and in actions which speak louder than words. Within a week the chief office in the grant of the G. T. R. has gone to one previously subordinate to the late C. M. Hays. Can one imagine the position of General Manager of any railway going to anyone but a railway man? Nevertheless there have been indications recently of a tendency to think that other principles apply in the public service. We are told—and if it isn't true it might have been—that at the recent examinations held to test the applicants for the vacancies occurring on Hansard, — one of the tests being the taking of a debate in the House of Commons—a clerk who was eligible for promotion was actually taking the note on the floor of the House of Commons while the applicants were taking the test note from the gallery—a civil servant actually performing the work to which the appointment was to be made, and performing it with perfect satisfaction. No amount of casuistry can make this anything but a sight ridiculous to gods and men. If it were merely ridiculous it would be bad enough. But it is worse. It is destructive of the highest incentive that can be held before a civil servant, the incentive to endeavour to rise in his chosen profession by good work and by good work alone.

## INSURANCE AND THE COST OF LIVING.

The committee on behalf of the federation engaged upon the business of advertising the benefits of the government insurance policy completed, some time ago, its work for the current year. It is a little over two years ago since *The Civilian* undertook to give publicity, throughout the service, to the existence of the scheme of government insurance. At that time 400 policies were in existence, taken out at the rate of about 24 policies each year between 1893 and 1910. In April, 1910, the federation appointed a committee to prosecute the work begun by *The Civilian* and the result of these efforts has been an addition of 244 policies at the average rate of 122 policies each year for the past two years, as compared with 17 each year during the first period when there existed no means whatever of communication or publicity within the service. This is surely one of the many arguments in favor of organization in the service.

While the foregoing result is satisfactory, much better results would have been achieved were it not that the increasing cost of living compels many members of the service to postpone making provision for the future on account of the difficulty of meeting the demands of the present. The insurance committee frequently met with this obstacle in the way of extending the benefits of insurance. Particularly does this apply in the case of the Post Office Department, which is worse off comparatively than any of the other services in respect of salaries. *The Civilian* has received a letter from a Montreal subscriber which illustrates the condition in that great and important department. It reads as follows:—

Editors of *The Civilian*:

The Carriers of Montreal wish the advice of your monthly review in regard to our increase of pay, as we are under the impression, as you have said in your last monthly copy, that you take the greatest interest in the outside service as well as

the inside. The cost of living is so high that it is impossible for a family to get along properly on the present salary. Now we hope that the next Parliament will do something for our grade, and in the meantime hope that you will take this matter up as we would be very glad to have some relief.

Yours respectfully,  
READER.

Montreal, May 23rd, 1912.

*The Civilian* greatly desires augmentation in the number of insurance policies, but of primal importance are the necessities of the moment, and until a just equilibrium is established between salaries and the mounting scale of living expenses no great hope can be entertained of increasing the proportion of policy-holders to non-policy holders which is now only 645 out of a total of about 8,000.

The important subject of adequate rewards for services rendered cannot be overlooked by the Enquiry Commission now sitting, and its recommendations in this regard will be awaited with interest by the whole service.



## SERVICE PORTRAITS.

*The Civilian* has been running a series of portraits for the past year of outside service officials. We now intend to vary this by alternating with the Inside Service. We are starting the latter in this issue with the portrait of a well known and popular member of the service, Major E. W. Hubbell, C.E. Chief Inspector of Surveys for Canada.

The following letter was received by the Post Office department. It came from a western postmaster at a small office and read: "In accordance with the rules of the department, I write to inform you that on next Saturday I will close the post office for a week, as I am going on a bear hunt. I am not asking your permission to close up and don't give a dam if you discharge me; but I may tell you that I am the only man in this neck of the woods who can read and write."—Exchange.

## At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

### Up the Gatineau—and Down.

"To him who in the love of Nature holds communion with her visible forms,"—when that lover is an Ottawa civil servant,—“she speaks a various language,” which may be called the Alpha—Beta—Gamma of Commutordom,—Alpha for Aylmer, Beta for Britannia and Gamma for the Gatineau. And the greatest of these is Gamma.

Aylmer is as exclusive as an eight cent fare will permit it to be. There is a chastened melody in the music of its merry-go-round, as if even its pleasure-makers were conscious of the proximity of the Golf Club. Aylmer looks with a tolerance, which is half of Aylmer's joy, across the lake at Britannia, for there is no disguise about her younger sister's coquetry. Britannia needs no gasworks. She has the Ottawa Electric interests on her side. Life there is all electric and its effect on one depends on one's constitution. Some tarry there to be electrified, some remain too long and are electrocuted. Four cents will take you there from any part of the city, ten cents will buy you your ice cream cones, another dime will give you your vaudeville, and Paine's Celery Compound will restore you to your normal state.

The Gatineau district is big enough to be different. There are electric lights in spots, but these are like a local rash and not a general eczema. The ordinary light of the Gatineau is the sun. There are phonographs up the Gatineau, and accordeons, and jews-harps, but the merry-go-round has never been tak-

en above Ironsides, except once before the days of local option. Automobiles travel as far as Wakefield when insured. Kazubazua is the limit of bicycle travel. Private railway coaches never attempt the line beyond Blue Sea Lake, and they go that far only with the consent of the Railway Commission. The chief excitement is afforded by the annual ball game between Chelsea and Farm Point and the raspberry picking.

Although the excitement is meagre the diversions are many. All Gatineau residents are trained gardeners. The training is obtained from the C. P. R. In fact this benevolent institution is the head and fountain of all Gatineau life. It not only provides cars in which the commuters spend most of their spare time but serves also as the chief topic of conversation on rainy days and Sundays. Somewhat like Falstaff who was both witty himself and the cause of wit in others the C.P.R. is both a convenience and an inspiration, affording in an equal degree the transports of joy and the joys of transportation. The word "equal" in this last sentence carries the exact mathematical meaning that it has in the equation  $x = o$ .

Speaking of gardens and trains, however, and we were speaking of them you know, the Gatineau man uses them as the bases of his calculation of time. The locomotive is his clock, the garden is his calendar. He measures hours by engine beats, "not by figures on a dial," and months by other kinds of beets and

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radishes and cucumbers and turnips. His seasons are the sage and summer savoury. He knows no years but his years of corn, no age but the cabbage. Holidays are for the sticking of peas, Sundays for the covert slaying of slugs and beetles. He has no fast days, except in contradistinction to his slow days when the sun does not smile on his cucumber beds.

Other diversions he has beside gardening, but all of them are more or less related to this main test of Gatineau citizenship. He generally has a shack that he remodels every year, although he calls it a cottage or a lodge. All shacks are built on uneven ground with much lattice work in front. This form of architecture permits of large spaces under the house for storing garden tools or for keeping hens. Each true Gatineau man plans to lay his own eggs. The garden sometimes suffers from the onsets of the fowls, but these troubles are patiently endured even as a parent endures the quarrels among his own children. It is only when the neighbours' fowls commit burglary that the value of a radish bed is set in account over against the value of a setting hen.

Another diversion of the Gatineau people is found in watching the tide rise and fall in the rain barrel. A gauge attached to the barrel gives the data which enables one, with the application of the proper formula, to establish the resultant between two forces, one objective, the other subjective, viz. the rainfall of the district and the desire for clean linen on behalf of the owner of the rainbarrel. Unto what can one liken a Gatineau man's shirts during a long dry spell? I said above that he measured time by the trains and by his garden. He supplements these methods of calculation, as far as his linen is concerned, after the manner of acts of parliament by referring its history to this or that rain. Some more advanced commuters have windmills designed for the

raising of water from the river. These serve as scare crows and amateur wireless telegraph stations. The owners obtain their water by means of the rain-barrel, although this fact is not advertised. The rain-barrel is a part of the garden outfit, of course, and often the pillow slips for the indoor beds lose their turn at the barrel because of the impertunity of the limp-backed slips in the flower beds.

The commuter has to spend some of his time in town, and the chief occupation of the commuter in town is trying to remember things. I was once a Gatineau commuter myself and Mrs. Wegg said that my city occupation was the forgetting of things. I think that it was a false accusation, but I will admit now that I never remembered the right thing. The best way for Mrs. Wegg to get a roast for Sunday was to tell me to bring up a gallon of walnut stain. I believe that the commuter's lack of memory is no great inconvenience when systematized. He knows always that he has to bring something back at night with him, and, although there may be at times a plethora of mosquito netting and a poverty of canned tomatoes, there is a general average established before the summer is over, so that the household can proceed as well as if the ambassador to Ottawa were as faithful in his errands as a lover.

The great delight of the commuter, apart from his aforesaid garden, is in the catching of trains,—no, not in the catching but in the almost missing of trains. It is in this that he takes the most insane pride, barring his aforesaid cucumbers of course. "She was just leaving the station when I came down the platform with a lawn mower over my shoulder and a bag of flour on my back." Thus he begins his recital nightly to the group in the smoking car. Then he relates how he spirted and sprinted and caught hold of the conductor's coat-tails, and threw the bag of flour through a car-window, and hitched

the lawn-mower to the rear-car, and turned two somersaults backwards and landed with his pipe in his mouth where you now behold him.

This is all true, for I have done it myself although handicapped by the presence of a wooden leg. This reference to my acquired limb permits me to call attention to the restoration of the sign at the head of this column which I took down a fortnight ago and had replaced by another. The Editor refused to sanction a second appearance of the new legend. I always find myself powerless when I start to argue with him about my wooden leg, for he soon shows me that the shoe is on the other foot.

### NEW INVENTIONS.

*Reported especially for The Civilian by H. B. Willson & Co., Patent Attorneys, 715 Eighth Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.*

*A complete copy of any of these patents will be forwarded to any person by Messrs. Willson & Co. on receipt of ten cents. Persons ordering copies must give Number of Patent.*

- 1,025,206—Device for washing prints and the like.
- 1,025,249—Photographic Printing Machine.
- 1,025,766—Photographic Objective.
- 1,025,774—Glass Lens.
- 1,026,619—Book Typewriter.
- 1,026,068—Cartridge Belt.
- 1,026,590—Safety Breech Block Lock for Guns.
- 1,026,609—Automatic Firearm with Fixed Barrel and Locked Breech.
- 1,026,043—Photographic Shutter.
- 1,026,124—Instrument for Centering and Marking and Testing Lenses.
- 1,026,215—Grip Dumb-Bell.
- 1,026,297—Phototelegraphy.
- 1,026,329—Flash-Light Apparatus.
- 1,025,997—Adjustable Index.
- 1,026,008—Device for Binding Paper Sheets.
- 1,026,064—Mechanical Calculator.
- 1,026,277—Temporary Binder.
- 1,026,308—Manifolding Device.
- 1,026,328—Signal Attachment for Letter Boxes.
- 1,026,346—Filing Device.

- 1,026,416—Addressing Machine.
- 1,026,443—Calculating Machine.
- 1,026,473—Calculating Machine.
- 1,026,549—Paper-File.
- 1,025,132—Automatic Gun or Rifle.
- 1,025,944—Collapsible or Falling Target.
- 1,025,170—Loose-Leaf Binder.
- 1,025,334—Calculator.
- 1,025,459—Addressing Machine.
- 1,025,468—Loos-Leaf Book.
- 1,025,744—Holder for Assembled Sheets.
- 1,025,813—Telephone Cabinet.
- 1,025,837—Envelope.
- 1,025,879—Employee's Time Recorder.
- 1,023,827—Tabulating Device for Typewriting Machines.
- 1,023,839—Transfer Mechanism for Calculating Machines.
- 1,023,941—Index for Loose Leaf Records and the like.
- 1,023,961—Instrument for Obtaining Average.
- 1,024,028—Magazine Mailing Machine.
- 1,024,193—Stamp-Pad.
- 1,024,222—Coin Savings-Bank.
- 1,024,245—Fountain Pen.
- 1,024,295—Tripping Device for Typewriting Machine.
- 1,024,397—Adding Machine.
- 1,024,435—Grinding Pen-Nibs.
- 1,024,472—Loose Leaf Binder.
- 1,023,930—Photographic Camera.
- 1,023,932—Photographic Camera.
- 1,023,933—Film Winding Key for Cameras.
- 1,023,827—Tabulating Device for Typewriting Machines.
- 1,024,552—Electric Postmarking Machine.
- 1,024,617—Mail Box.
- 1,025,007—Pocket Memorandum Book.
- 1,025,039—Mailing Device.
- 1,025,097—Envelop-Moistening Device.
- 1,024,679—Syllable Writing Machine.

Many new inventions referring to typewriting machines have been omitted from above list; the numbers of such patents will be furnished by the Editors on application.

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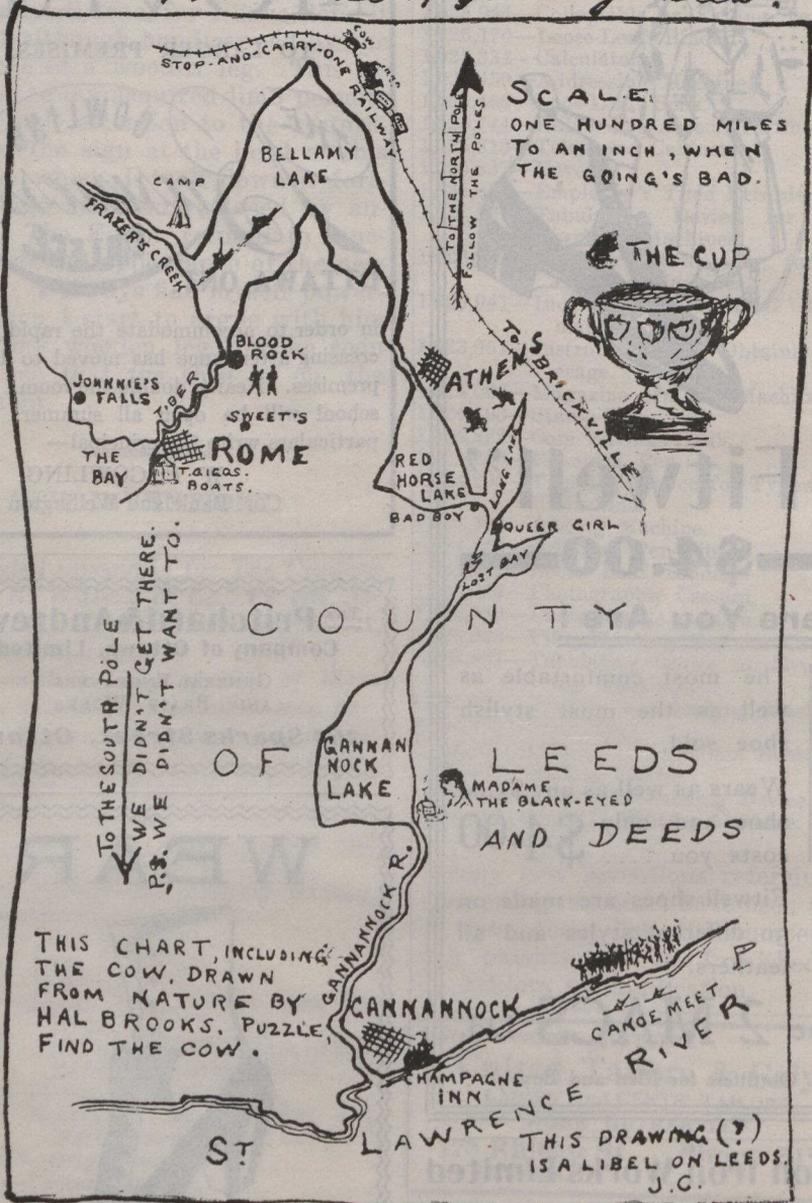
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# Chart of the Cruise of Jimmy Crew.



The original is in the Dominion Archives, along with the hole in Brock's coat, Montcalm's last breath, the last words of Wolfe, and other priceless national heirlooms.

## The Miss-adventures of Jimmy Carew.

(From the Log of Harold Brooks.)

By G. R.

### SYNOPSIS.

Carew and Brooks, on statutory leave, are canoeing to races in St. Lawrence. Carew finds locket containing miniature; and later rescues Miss Bessie Moore from capsized skiff in bay at Rome, her escort, Potts, also being pulled ashore. Brooks vainly urges paddling to regatta without delay to be eligible for race. On the eve of starting for a garden party, Jimmy is reminded by Brooks of the beautiful miniature in the locket, which J. had forgotten. A coolness follows with the Moores, and the g. p. is off. Later, Brooks looking out of his hotel bedroom window, sees J. and Potts walking together up the street. Next morning J. explains to Brooks that Potts tried to get him to give up the locket, that they had a scrap, and that he chased Potts to the gate of the garden party. While J. and Brooks are swimming off Giggs' boat-house, Potts takes locket from J.'s clothes, and J. pursues. Giggs tells Brooks he saw J. at garden party flirting with Miss Ivy Green.

### CHAPTER VII.

#### *Good-bye to Bessie.*

I found Jimmy still at breakfast, and not more than half satisfied as yet. He advised me to have eggs, lots of 'em, as they were strictly fresh-laid, by the black hen. He had already consumed four, soft-boiled, and the cook was now boiling him some more. I intimated that while I was naturally interested in the supply of anything good to eat, I had an appetite also for details of the hot pursuit. He put two spoonfuls of sugar into his third cup of coffee, stirred it, tested it, and said with the air of a man who has just lifted the America Cup instead of a bit of common crockery:

"That fellow Potts will put himself into the penitentiary or me into a madhouse if I don't succeed in rounding him up pretty soon. He ran as if the devil were at his heels; and, I can tell you, the devil was! As soon as he cut over the bridge, I saw his game. The road to Johnnie's Falls has been recently mended, after a fashion that ought to make Macadam turn in his grave,—mud and dumpings of sharp stones. But when Potts saw that, in spite of the libel on Mac, I was bare-footing it and pulling down his lead, the beggar played another card. He struck into a pine grove, which he seemed to know every path of like a hare. But the paths were brown needles,

and suited my bare feet, and at last I thought I had him. He doubled and ducked and turned, but he was about all in, and with an oath he flung something back, and dashed on in one last desperate sprint. That something was bright, and went glimmering by, and I knew, in a flash, too, what it was—that bally locket. Of course, I stopped to pick it up, and Potts took pains to disappear off the map. I knocked at the door of a shanty on the shore of the bay, to get a drink. A little Irish-woman, in dishabile, opened the door, which I just about filled; and when she saw me she jumped back, and threw up her hands, and yelled: 'Moike! F'r th' luv iv heavin', sa-ave me! Here's th' big, murderin' loonatic that's escaped out iv th' Brickville madhouse!' I suppose I must have looked pretty fierce, panting and hot in a four ounce swimming suit. But to reassure her, I laughed till the shanty shook. And when 'Moike' appeared, he fell on his knees, muttering, and shut his eyes, and crossed himself. I broke for the bay, minus my drink, and plunged in, with Giggs' boat-house in sight right across; while Mrs. Mike ran to the beach, wringing her hands, and berating Mike for letting a hundred dollars, dead or alive, swim away out of their hands."

Jimmy cracked one of the second consignment of soft-boiled, that the waiting girl had just brought, with as much energy as though it were Chumley Potts' cranium, and went on, in a tone of annoyance:

"We can't get away too soon! The story of this morning's chase is already all over Rome. It was circulated ahead of my return, thanks to that garrulous foreman at the mill. A certain young lady in this house is popularly supposed to have been the cause of it. And there are embellishments. One of the maids in the house overheard some of the talk in the hall last night about the locket, and that is figuring in the gossip, too."

"We'll have to give the true story to the press through its representative, Mr. Potts," I remarked. "Have you seen anything this morning of the 'certain young lady' in this house? Her mater cut me dead just now, as she drove down hill."

"Well, after that, we know just how we stand!" said Jimmy. "We'll get under way, and take our hateful presence far, far from Rome." He spoke lightly, but the undercurrent of bitterness was strong.

But as we passed out upon the veranda, we came face to face with Bessie Moore, smartly dressed, and armed with a racket

for the tennis courts. "Thirty love," said I to myself, thinking of Jimmy, as we gravely bowed.

"Good morning," she said, and seemed about to pass on. But her momentary hesitation, and apparent embarrassment, decided Jimmy's next move.

"Good morning, Miss Moore," he said; and his tone and look apparently compelled her to pause. "Will you please tell Brooks and me," he went on, in a firm but gentle voice, "in what way we have incurred the displeasure of yourself and your mother?"

"I was not aware——" she flushed, and paused.

"This morning your mother cut Mr. Brooks dead. We are leaving the village at once." *That* hit her. I saw the shot go home. "It is possible we shall not meet you or your mother again. You both made yesterday a very delightful one for us——"

"And you were very good to me!" she broke in impulsively. It was a flash of the real girl. "You rescued me from peril, and——"

"And Giggs would have done it if I had not beaten him out." Jimmy spoke as though humoring a child, and it did seem that he was. And he smiled his tenderest smile, the kind that makes a woman want to reach up to see how that smile *feels*. "Now wont you be kindly frank with us, before we go?"

"You—you left us very abruptly last night!" she said, flushing again. She was all in a storm inside, I could see that, though fighting hard to seem calm.

"You said 'good-bye' very willingly then. And haven't I a right to hear from you why your mother's manner and your own changed so suddenly toward me?"

The girl clasped the racket tightly before her, and drawing her slim figure up very straight she looked Jimmy fairly and squarely in the eyes.

"Mr. Carew, Mamma thought it very strange, and I—I thought it very strange that you had been with us all day without mentioning in the slightest way having found a locket—and such a locket—containing such a remarkably beautiful face." The girl spoke rapidly, the colour in her own beautiful face coming and going as beautifully as the northern lights in a winter sky. If she thought she was arguing for a dubious case, she was going to argue it out, that was plain. But I saw, and Jimmy saw, the fine Italian hand of Mamma behind it all, now.

"Then I'm to understand that your mother—and you—didn't believe me when I said I found the locket?" Jimmy spoke with studied gentleness; but I could see the ice forming, as fine as a spider's web.

"You asked me to be frank, Mr. Carew. You've a right to ask it, after—after yes-

terday. But Mr. Brooks' own reference to the locket seemed so—so belated. It seemed strange that after finding so valuable a thing you would not have at once inquired, after getting here, if such a loss had been spoken of. And then, a little later, in spite of the insinuation of Mr. Potts on the veranda here that you were fibbing about having found the locket, we saw you walk away from the hotel with him, up the street! What *could* we think? And then, this morning, the first village gossip that we heard—it was Giggs himself who volunteered it when Mamma ordered the carriage to be sent round for her customary morning drive—the first gossip about you was that you had gone in furious pursuit of Mr. Potts to recover a gold locket. It seemed so strange to us that you should put yourself out like that about a locket you had merely found, when——" She paused, swinging her racket, and Jimmy said:

"You said the *first* village gossip that you heard this morning? And was there more?"

"Mamma's ideas may be a bit old-fashioned," Bessie said, while her fair chin rose a point. "But I have always thought them sound. Some people perhaps may consider her prudish, yet I have never thought her other than punctilious, and of course have always deferred to her views. We had hardly sat down to breakfast this morning, Mr. Carew, when some people stopping here began to discuss you—it was impossible not to hear them—and we heard all about your 'furious flirtation' at the garden party at the Rectory at Sweet's last evening with Miss Ivy Green, 'the Bellamy Belle,' who is commonly supposed to be the fiancée of Mr. Chumley Potts."

Jimmy showed his fine, white, even teeth in a slow, good-humored smile. It wasn't just the tender variety this time. It was the kind that indicated appreciation of the funny side of a thing.

"My reputation appears to be in the hands of a local conspiracy as well as those of Fate," he said. "I was not at the garden party, my dear Miss Moore."

Her dark brows lifted in polite surprise. "Really? That is very strange. These people seemed to be quite sure. They spoke of the 'tall, tanned canoeing gentleman, with the big breezy laugh,' who had spent all day in Rome."

"Truth seems to be stranger and harder to believe than the fiction of gossip," Jimmy said. "You know I was not at the garden party, Brooks."

"Of course, old chap!" I said. "But I do believe that somebody who looked very much like you, was, Giggs, who drove some people to the garden party—doubtless the people Miss Moore has referred to—told me emphatically this morning that he saw you there, and he thought I was trying to gammon him when I said you had not been

there. He was politely positive, describing your height and your togs, and even your laugh."

Miss Moore, clasping the tennis racket behind her, looked away — far away. Jimmy's kindly but keen glance rested on her fixed face. Then in his own the lines of haughtiness grew tense to the degree of mandibular aggressiveness, as he said:

"My sincere thanks for your frankness, Miss Moore, and my regret that my own frankness has been misinterpreted. Please thank your mother on our behalf for her hospitality of yesterday; and, once more, good-bye."

We passed down the steps, leaving her standing very still and straight, the same strained expression spoiling the exquisite beauty of her girlish face. My ear—subconsciously listening, I suppose—caught a little gasp, as we reached the walk, and then the sloping lawn and the shrubbery hid even tall Jimmy from her view, as we went briskly down the hill.

But in my mind it was a pretty safe betting proposition that Miss Bessie within the next two minutes would be up in her room in the Roman House, with her slender, sylph-like figure across the bed, and her patrician nose in the pillow, having her sex's one grand untouchable relief — a good cry.

"So even Giggs said he saw me at the garden party!" growled James, as we strode on. "The people in this place are either in league or bewitched! Well, I can't shake the dust of this bally hamlet off my shoes fast enough, and I'll set a pace for you, Harold Brooks, down stream, that'll make you wish you'd never expressed a desire to leave this place! I've just one regret: leaving Mr. Chumley Potts behind with whole bones!"

I said that if he intended to cut out a pace like that, now that in all likelihood it was too late to be of any avail as far as our racing entries at the Meet were concerned, he could make it alone; and that in any case I conceded the Trophy Cup to Otto Weatherbee, who would be perfectly fresh and fit for the race. The name of Weatherbee roused Jimmy afresh, and he squared himself again as he strode on.

"Giggs is right about Weatherbee, wherever he may have got his information, and whatever his garden party hallucinations about me may be!" he growled, when I related what Giggs had said about the Dantucket paddling crack. "Weatherbee's a cad, and I'd paddle day and night—and will, if need be—to be on hand for just one chance in ten to beat him out in that race for the big Cup!"

So here, says I to myself, is *another* secret, maybe. Giggs is sure some sore on Weatherbee. And what is Jimmy's grouch? Time will tell, as the man said when he fell down in the hall, with his wife in

her nightie on the top step, and the clock struck two.

Giggs' boy was mounting guard over Jimmy's canoe and traps when we reached the mill. Mr. Giggs, the boy thought, was bringing my canoe down; and Jimmy, who was in a mental as well as sentimental and muscular fever to be off, pushed out, admonishing me to 'catch up,' when we would have a practice spin for 'a mile or two.' Nothing small about Jimmy. Sprints of a mile or two are letter O's to him. I went back over the portage with the boy and the truck, and met Giggs coming down with my craft.

"An' wot did Mr. Carew say about wot I said?" inquired Giggs, as he launched my canoe into the clear, quick-running little stream.

"That you were jolly well right about Mr. Weatherbee, and all at sea about the garden party, Giggs."

"It's bloomin' hodd, then!" he muttered. And just then Jimmy's whistle blew a shrill, impatient call.

"Now, there's somethin' I covet!" exclaimed Giggs. "That's moosic, that w'istle is! If I 'ad one 'o them around the boat-'ouse, or w'en I'm driving the stage an' a bit lyte, with a nervous passenger afraid 'e won't catch the train on the Stop-an'-Carry-One,—afraid o' that! Fancy! I——"

I took my whistle from its guard and handed it to Giggs—an impulse, of course—as a souvenir of my sojourn in Rome, and under a bewildering shower of Giggsonian gratitude I paddled into mid-stream.

"Per'aps you'll 'ear from me to-morrow!" he called. "I've more than 'alf a mind to drive down to the races and see Mr. Carew trim Weatherbee. An' if I do, an' can't place you, I'll give a call!" He waved a sturdy brown arm, and then a bend of the stream hid him from sight.

The little river wound a tortuous way between high banks that were heavily timbered to the edge. Along the bank of the Roman side of the stream ran a bush road. Now and then the bank touched the road, which abutted upon the axis of the stream's curves. And it was because of this alternating convergence and divergence of road and river that I was presently forced to conclude that a man in the wood was purposely following me.

The wood was too dense for me to have more than a fleeting view of the mysterious one; but suddenly, at a little glade where the river and the road came together, I saw that he had run swiftly ahead. I quickened my stroke, but at the next bend I caught no glimpse of him at all. Suspicion grew. It merged into alarm. The man could not be pursuing me. Jimmy must be the quarry, then; and of Jimmy I had obtained no sign. The road, I assumed, must run directly from the mill to

the lake, and it was not the work of many moments to dash ashore and hurriedly climb to the top of the steep bank.

The road had been blazed in a fairly straight line, and I reached it just in time to see, far down the leafy aisle, a figure leave the path as if stealthily and disappear among the foliage of the fringe of forest growing between the path and the stream.

From the vantage point of the high bank I could see the little river here and there, glinting between the trees as it wound toward the lake, whose farther expanse was visible and silverly vague; and as my glance turned back to the shimmering patches of moving stream I glimpsed Jimmy, his blades flashing merrily in the sun, as he shot across my view. A moment more and he was gone, hidden by a rocky point.

And as I stood blinking from the sunlit stream beneath me to the shadowy, silent forest path at my feet, there came a shrill sound that made me start and then leap almost headlong down the bank.

For it was our whistle-blown *danger* call, the Morse "D"!

In a tumult I pushed out, swung my canoe about, and raced for the first bend. And as I sharply rounded it, my paddle striking the limestone bank, suddenly a name and the talk on the veranda of the Roman House flashed through my mind.

*Blood Rock!*

## CHAPTER VIII.

### *Over the Chasm's Brink.*

Blood Rock? I grabbed for my whistle then, to signal Jimmy a reply, only to be reminded that but a little while ago I had given it to Giggs. Mentally damning the spontaneous generosity and short-sightedness of that act, I paused on my paddle to shout; but ere my lungs fully filled came the sharp note of the whistle again,—yet a note of *inquiry* this time, and not of alarm!

Bewildered, I sat open-mouthed, my cry strangled ere its birth, while the echoes of the piercing whistle-call died away in the deep wood like the cries of a wounded thing. Then I plunged my double-blade right and left, and with head down raced on, while the steep gray bank on my right seemed to flow past the rocking gunwale of my craft.

Suddenly my paddle ran foul of weeds. I looked up, to find myself in a trap. I had run out of the channel, and into a blind arm of the stream. The water here was dead, thick with the rank weed-growth of August, and the place had the silence of death. The gray wall of limestone shutting in the place was crumbling and sheer, and here and there a stunted cedar leaned forlornly from some earth-sown rift in the stratified rock.

I had driven down this place, in my blind zeal, almost to its end. But as I slashed about irefully to return, cutting the rank weeds to ribbons as they clung octopus-like to my blades, a natural way up the rock by which I might climb caught my eye, and forcing the canoe to the foot of the path I clambered out and hurriedly scaled the rock.

The long, glittering lake burst dazzlingly into view, as I reached the top of the wall and raised myself above the fringe of stunted cedar growth. But an object between that shimmering sheet and me caught and held my sight as the bewildering effect of reflected sunlight passed. It was the long figure of Potts, on hands and knees upon the plank that bridged the chasm between the main shore and Blood Rock.

I turned a swift glance upon the sinuous stream. The quick, clear current was shimmering in green and gold, beautiful as the dress of a dragon in a fairy tale, as it flashed back the sunshine and changed to emeralds the verdure of its shores. And "down the golden braided center of the current swift and strong," came Jimmy, drifting, his double-blade across his knees, his hands grasping the combing of his cruising craft, his whole figure turned three-quarters about and motionless, while he gazed, as though listening, up stream.

Suddenly he blew on his whistle the sharp note of inquiry I had heard. It was so strident and sudden a sound that it made Potts start and pause midway upon the plank. Then Jimmy turned impatiently in his craft, and seizing his paddle plunged it in at the quarter to bring the canoe around. But as the bow swung against the current and pointed toward where I stood, Jimmy's glance was raised and he saw me.

I swiftly raised an admonishing hand to my lips to check the exclamation upon his own, and with the other pointed dramatically toward Potts. Then, as Jimmy's canoe swung into line with the current again, I ducked into the shrubs, for Potts had crossed his Rubicon and was rising with extreme caution to survey the stream. His bared head rose slowly above the scrub, but ere his surveying eyes found Jimmy the latter had seen and understood. He resumed his paddle, bent his glance apparently down stream, and glided from Potts' view.

Potts rose abruptly to his fullest height, donned his Panama, and under cover of the brow of Blood Rock, beneath which Jimmy must soon pass, ran swiftly thither. There he crouched, crept, and disappeared among the cedar shrub.

Then I raced for the bridge. It was a wide and heavy sawn pine plank, the ends dropped into rough niches in the uppermost layer of the stratified rock. It would take a leap of fifteen feet from the take-off to clear the chasm well, and it *looked more*. There was no sod on either side from which

to spring, and the descent would be on bare rock. The chasm, with running water and rocks below, was more than forty feet deep, and at either end, where it joined river and lake, the water was doubtless deep, since all the rock about was sheer. Thus the rift and river and lake made an island of Blood Rock.

Straining, on my knees, I found that I could shift the plank, and as it stirred from the niche, between my knees, a shout rang over the rock.

"Potts!"

My head went up as the word, in Jimmy's ringing voice, seemed to split the air, even as prehistoric forces had split the rock. Then Potts broke through the cedar shrub and dashed, head down, across the rough way toward me. His Panama was pulled low upon his brows, and from under its sun-sheltering brim his glance ran, like a scout, ahead, picking out a path. He was but half a dozen strides from the chasm when he checked his gait. His glance crossed the chasm, found me, and he pulled up with a start. Then he leaped forward with an oath.

"O, curse you!" he cried, in the next breath, and shook a furious fist. For the plank was pitching down the chasm, crashing against its gray, damp walls to the rocky bed. And I was glad, on my own account, that I had negotiated the deal in time.

Potts' cheek, by nature pale, went whiter still with rage. His light blue eyes flashed a baleful fire, and his lips parted in hate as he stooped for a stone. But as suddenly he straightened and wheeled about, for a sound had startled him. Jimmy, bare-headed and bare-armed, had broken through the scrub at the top of the rock's lakeside path, and was rushing at him like an avenging bolt.

Potts hesitated, glanced at the chasm, ran back toward Jimmy a few yards, then leaped forward to the rift. But the run was too brief. His long legs could not get their stride for a leap. He stopped short.

"Trapped, by God!" he snarled, and whirled about, with the avenging rush of Jimmy's feet in his ears. His glance shot to left and right for an avenue of retreat. And well he might, for Jimmy, big and fierce, looked like the Real Works in the avenging line. Then he stooped swiftly, desperately, as though to clutch for a stone.

But in that moment Jimmy was on him in a flash. With his right hand he caught the wrist and placed his left beneath the elbow of Potts' right arm, and Potts went to his knees with a snarl of pain as Jimmy put on a shoulder twist. Jimmy released his hold, stepped back, and Potts was again on his feet. But in his haste to leap aside and avoid Jimmy, who made a rapid move, Potts forgot his perilous proximity to the

chasm, stepped back, and slipped again. His long legs slid over the ledge. He clutched frantically at the bare and sloping rock. But his fingers found no hold, and I shut my eyes hard as, with a hoarse yell of fear that echoed down the chasm, he slipped back, his chin striking the edge.

(To be continued.)

## CIVIL SERVICE BASEBALL LEAGUE, OTTAWA.

A meeting was recently held in the Y.M.C.A. library of all those interested in forming a Civil Service Baseball league. Four teams, viz., Militia, Census, Post Office and Topographical Survey sent representatives. R. Sims, of the Census, acted as chairman. And the meeting was called as the work of organization was not complete, and the election of officers deferred until the next meeting. Two more teams entered, namely, the West Block and Printing Bureau. Officers were elected as follows:

Hon. Patron—Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden.

Hon. Pres.—Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes.

Hon. Vice-Presidents — Dr. J. L. Chabot, Mr. A. E. Fripp and the deputies of each department represented.

Pres.—R. Sims, of Census.

Vice-Pres.—A. J. Sawyer, Printing Bureau.

Sec.—H. E. Hayward, Topographical Survey.

Treas.—H. Fraser, Post Office.

Committee—Messrs. Whillans, D. W. Hebbard, A. J. Laflamme, Percy Lesseur, T. Doyle.

Subsequently three more teams made application; namely, Immigration Branch, Transcontinental, and Customs Statistics and Geographer's Branch, and were duly admitted. Arrangements have been made to play a single schedule alternatively at Varsity Oval and Lansdowne Park as there are two sections. A fine season of sport is anticipated and a good

following. Professionals are debarred and City League players of this year and those participating in more than two games last year. Prizes will be given by the league to the players. Representatives from the various departments are as follows:

Post Office, H. Fraser, M. Broderick; Militia, Littlefield, D. Hibbard; Census, H. Boyd, J. Kyte, R. Sims; Topo. Survey, H. E. Hayward, Armstrong, Moran; Immigration Br., C. B. Burns, J. Laflamme, Daly; West Block, Drummond, Whillans; Printing Bureau, A. J. Sawyer, McGovern, H. Boehmer; Transcontinental, P. Lesseur; Customs Statistics and Geographers, T. Doyle, L. A. Kane.

The Civil Service Baseball League is thus composed of nine teams and has been divided into sections A and B to facilitate the drawing up of the schedule and also to get through the necessary number of games to be played. Another team, it is hoped, will join, thus making an even number. Later in the season it may be possible to pull off a game with some outside team, *e.g.*, Toronto Post Office.

\* \* \*

It is the intention of the league to play double-headers, alternate games, on the old and new diamonds at Varsity Oval. When no scheduled games are on the teams intend practising on the Oval as it has been hired for the season, excepting Saturdays. The "Citizen" published the schedule in full on the 23rd inst. The ball is started rolling on June 5th, and a good attendance is anticipated. No gate receipts will be charged. Later in the season it may be possible to get a game on with the city league.

## OTTAWA ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Association was held last week to discuss the manner in which appointments are being made to the First Division other than by promotion from the Second Division. A special committee had been instructed at the previous regular meeting to prepare a report upon the subject, and this committee submitted a report which recommended that an interview be sought with the Hon. the Secretary of State for the purpose of presenting the views of the Executive thereon. It was felt that grave differences had arisen in the interpretation of the Civil Service Act with the result that the service would suffer in efficiency and serious injustice be inflicted upon competent officials whose rightful claims to promotion would be overlooked. That these differences might be adjusted by an exchange of views was the unanimous opinion of the committee, and it was therefore decided to seek an interview with the Civil Service Commission and also to approach the Government through the Secretary of State who is the administrator of the Act.

At the previous monthly meeting it was decided to notify the chairman of the Advisory Board in any Department whose representative failed to attend meetings or provide a substitute, as such neglect of duty was detrimental to both the Association as a body and to the members thereof in the Department affected. Another matter of very general interest which was considered was a resolution instructing the Committee on Salaries and Promotions to prepare a report upon the cost of living in relation to the present scale of salaries, and submit such recommendations as they see fit as to the advisability of approaching the Government on the question of a readjustment of salaries.

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## Correspondence.

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

### Private Secretaries.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I have read with interest the letter in a recent issue of *The Civilian*, by "An Old Timer," on the vexed question of Ministers Private Secretaries; but while the solution of the problem which he offers is an interesting one, I doubt if it would, as he claims, be "satisfactory to all concerned," for the reason that it does not, to my mind at least, go to the root of the difficulty. If I understand the question rightly, the chief cause of complaint is based upon the fact that these secretaries are nearly always promoted into the higher grades of the service upon the retirement of the minister employing them; which promotions, especially in the case of a small department, where a change of minister might occur comparatively frequently would palpably work to the great disadvantage of the regular officials in the lower grades of the department.

Now what is the principal reason for such promotion being given to private secretaries? Is it not for the purpose of compensating them, wholly or in part, for the loss of the \$600 per annum which they receive in addition to their regular salary, so long as they are discharging the duties of private secretary? That additional payment of \$600 is, to my mind the root of the whole trouble. Naturally no man wants to lose \$50 per month from his salary; and if he happens to be a married man, and has served for some time as a pri-

vate secretary, and has become used to living up to the maximum of his salary, as most Civil Servants have to do, the financial loss to him is a very serious one; the knowledge of this undoubtedly appeals strongly to the sympathies of the outgoing minister, and he does what he can to meet the difficulty, and so applies the only remedy available, which is to promote his secretary to the higher grade. Do away with this additional payment of \$600, and the necessity (or at least the prime reason) for such promotion at once disappears; the ex-secretary would suffer no financial loss on the retirement of his minister, but would remain in the department at the same salary which he received as private secretary, with the usual statutory increments, if he were not already at the maximum of his grade; under such circumstances there would be nothing in his case to specially appeal to the sympathy of his minister, and therefore there would be no good reason for the latter recommending his promotion to the higher grade.

Whatever its merits may be in other respects, the objection to "an Old Timer's" plan is that it perpetuates the present system, as regards the suggested Departmental Secretary, that is he is to "receive an addition to his salary, while acting as private secretary," and when he ceases to so act "he would revert to his ordinary work, and his regular salary." Result, precisely as at present — sympathy with the ex-secretary for his prospective loss of salary, with promotion as the remedy. Under the circumstances "an Old Timer's" plan hardly commends itself as a practical solution of the problem.

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Ottawa.

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.



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MONCTON	- - -	3.45 p.m.	LEVIS	- - - 3.00 a.m.
	will arrive			will arrive
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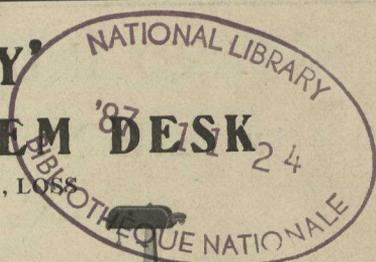
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