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Vol. V.

NOV. 1,

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



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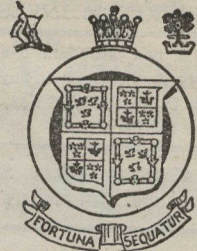
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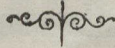


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THE CIVILIAN

VOL. V.

NOVEMBER 1, 1912.

No. 14

The Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

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 Publications Branch has been organized for the purpose of dealing with the International Agricultural Institute, to which Canada is one of the adhering countries, and with the distribution of the publications of the department.

The International Agricultural Institute owes its inception to the initiative of His Majesty, the King of Italy, who early in 1905 invited the different governments of the world to take part in a conference, to be held at Rome in the May following, for the purpose of considering the constitution and organization of the proposed Institute.

This conference was attended by the representatives of some 40 different States, and in accordance with the agreement then reached the International Agricultural Institute was established as an official institution supported by the various governments concerned, each of which is represented in the General Assembly of the Institute by delegates of its own selection. Up to the present time 50 different countries, including Great Britain and Ireland, India and most of the self-governing Dominions and Colonies of the British Empire have become affiliated to the Institute.

The Institute is housed in a beautiful building, which by the munificence of His Majesty, the King of Italy,

has been erected at Rome, in the grounds of the Villa Umberto I. This building contains large rooms for meetings in the central portion, while the wings contain the offices, library, and the rooms occupied by the foreign delegates.

The Objects of the Institute.

The Constitution of the Institute provides that, whilst limiting its action to international questions, it is to be the duty of the Institute:—

(a) To collect, elaborate, and publish, with as little delay as possible, statistical, technical, or economic information regarding the cultivation of the soil, its production, whether animal or vegetable, the trade in agricultural products, and the prices obtained on the various markets.

(b) To send to interested parties, in as rapid a manner as possible, full information of the nature above mentioned.

(c) To indicate the wages of rural labour.

(d) To make known all new diseases of plants which may appear in any part of the world, indicating the districts affected, the spread of the disease, and, if possible, efficacious means of resistance.

(e) To consider questions relating to agricultural co-operation, insur-

ance and credit, in all their forms, collecting and publishing information which may be useful in the various countries for the organization of undertakings relating to agricultural co-operation, insurance and credit.

(f) To present, if expedient, to the governments, for their approval, measures for the protection of the common interests of agriculturists and for the improvement of their condition after having previously taken every means of obtaining the necessary information, *e.g.*, resolutions passed by International Congresses or other Congresses relating to agriculture or to sciences applied to agriculture, Agricultural Societies, Academies, Learned Societies, etc.

All questions relating to the economic interests, the legislation and administration of any particular State are to be excluded from the sphere of the Institute.

It will be seen from this that the Institute is in effect an International Agricultural Intelligence Department for the collection, collation and publication of technical, economic, and statistical information of interest to agriculturists, special prominence being given to crop reports, prices plant diseases, co-operation, insurance and credit.

By the beginning of 1911 the different services of the Institute were completely organized and in full operation. The information collected by these services is published in four monthly bulletins: "Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics," "Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence," "Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and of Plant Diseases," and "Bulletin of Commercial Statistics."

The "*Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics*" furnishes information concerning area, production, and condition of crops in the fifty different countries of the world which adhere to the Institute. This information is based on official data supplied to the Institute by the governments of these countries. In addition to the month-

ly bulletin and the supplements which are often issued, the Institute, on the date of publication, telegraphs a summary of the important contents of the bulletin to the governments of the countries. This feature is of special value to countries which, like Canada, are distant from Italy and receive the bulletin from twelve to fifteen days after its publication at Rome.

The "*Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence*" deals with agricultural co-operation and association, insurance, credit and economic questions relating to agriculture. During the past year there have been published in it detailed accounts of the splendid systems of agricultural organization in Great Britain and Ireland, United States, Germany, Denmark, France, and other European countries.

The "*Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and of Plant Diseases*" consists of summaries and extracts from reports, bulletins and periodicals, both official and private. The articles embrace chemistry, botany, the cultivation of crops, rural engineering, live stock and live stock products, agricultural industries and machinery, plant diseases, and destructive insects. Several hundred of the most important agricultural periodicals and bulletins of all the adhering countries are therein reviewed or summarized, and an indication of the sources of information given so that the original article may be procured if it is available.

The "*Bulletin of Commercial Statistics*."

At the General Assembly of the International Agricultural Institute held in May, 1911, which was attended by Hon. Senator Boyer and Mr. T. K. Doherty, the Canadian Commissioner of the Institute, as the delegates for Canada, it was decided to inaugurate on the first of July, 1912, a regular service of informa-

tion on statistics concerning the trade in leading agricultural products. This service will comprise statistical information as to visible stocks of cereals, imports and exports, as well as the weekly prices in the principal markets. The reports as to stocks will refer to wheat, rye, barley, oats and corn only, while those relating to imports and exports and prices will also include rice and cotton. Meanwhile, the Institute in the opening months of 1912 started this service tentatively by means of a bulletin intended for the preliminary period, not for publication but only for the use of the adhering governments and the members of the Permanent Committee of the Institute. The "Bulletin of Commercial Statistics" will be started as an authorized publication of the Institute sometime in 1913 and will thereafter be published regularly every month.

It is the duty of the Canadian Commissioner of the Institute, on the one hand, to furnish to the Institute all the data needed concerning Canada for the various publications. Some of this information is obtained from other branches of this department and from other departments of the Federal government. Some consists of information summarized from the publications of the Federal and Provincial governments, from the reports of large agricultural associations and the principal periodical publications. Monographs on agricultural organization and on agricultural education in Canada have been prepared and forwarded for publication.

It is, on the other hand, the duty of the Canadian Commissioner, to make the information published by the Institute available to as many Canadian agricultural readers as possible. Only a few of the original Institute publications can be obtained for distribution in Canada, and these are communicated to the agricultural departments of the Dominion and of the provinces, and to the agricultural colleges. In order to extend the bene-

fit of the information to the agricultural press, the graduates of agricultural colleges, well-read practical farmers, agricultural economists, boards of trade, bankers, shippers, etc., it has been deemed necessary to issue monthly a bulletin called "The Publications of the International Agricultural Institute." This Canadian bulletin contains such portions of the contents of the four Institute bulletins as are deemed of interest and value to Canadians. Summaries are made of articles too lengthy for reproduction. As a supplement to this bulletin, multigraph sheets are issued whenever a cablegram crop report is received from the Institute or other important news concerning the world's crops has come to hand. These are promptly sent to the agricultural press and persons particularly interested.

The figures concerning area and production of crops are in the original bulletin stated according to the metrical system of weights and measures. In the Canadian bulletin, for the purpose of making the statistics readily intelligible to Canadian readers, hectares and quintals are converted into acres and bushels in accordance with the Canadian legal standards.

Library.

For the Commissioner's work in furnishing to the Institute the requisite information concerning Canada and in utilizing for the advantage of Canadians all the information collected and published by this Agricultural Information Bureau, a properly equipped library has become necessary. The library of the Publications Branch comprises all the Canadian publications relating to the objects of the Institute, whether federal, provincial, official or private; the federal and provincial statutes; the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture; of the United States Department of Commerce and Labour; of 42 United

States Experiment Stations, and 31 State Boards of Agriculture; and similar publications from Great Britain and Ireland, Australia, India, France, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Argentina, Newfoundland, Jamaica, South Africa, Paraguay, New Zealand, Russia and Austria-Hungary.

The library cards published by the library of the United States Congress are used as a mean of classifying the publications in the library, making a pretty complete bibliography of agricultural works published in any country in any language. The Publications Branch has over 50,000 of these cards, 10,000 of which represent the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture. The cards are being arranged in alphabetical order by subject and author, and are being numbered according to the Dewey-Decimal system of classification as adopted by the International Agricultural Institute to agricultural publications. These cards, although primarily for the use of the Publications Branch may, when completely classified, be utilized to advantage by other officials of the Federal Department of Agriculture or by other agricultural students, writers, and investigators in Canada.

Distribution of Publications.

With the exception of the book "Farm Weeds of Canada," which is sold at one dollar per copy, this Department distributes free all publications issued by its several branches. These publications constitute Annual Reports of Branches, Reports of Commissions charged with the investigation of agricultural industries, evidences and papers given before the Standing Committees of the House of Commons and of the Senate on Agriculture, Bulletins describing and giving the results of experiments and other kinds of work carried on in the interests of agriculture, fruit crop reports, original monthly bulletins issued by the International Agricul-

tural Institute and Canadian monthly rescripts of these.

Previous to the present year each Branch of the Department distributed its publications, but the work became so great that a separate Branch equipped with mailing machinery was created to take charge of it.

Each Branch built up and maintained a mailing list which has made steady growth. To the names on these several lists copies of new publications are promptly sent as issued. At the same time a press notice is sent to news and agricultural papers throughout the Dominion. These notices create a keen demand from interested persons, and with each copy sent out a slip is enclosed advising the recipient that he may have his name added to the mailing list of the Branch, which issued the publication, by filling in and returning the slip. As these are received the names are added to the respective lists which are constantly being revised. At this date the several lists include about 150,000 names, about five-sixths of which receive the English editions while the remainder receive publications printed in the French language.

As a rule a sufficient number of copies of each new publication issued are ordered to supply the respective mailing lists, and several thousand additional to meet the future demand that may arise. In the case of special publications prepared to arouse interest in a dangerous enemy of crops, such as very bad weeds or dangerous fungus diseases, much larger editions are printed and very widely distributed. These are sent not only to seventy odd thousand names on the mailing list of the Experimental Farms, but to the public schools, post offices, railroad stations, cheese factories, creameries, secretaries of agricultural organizations, etc.

The number of publications sent out varies to some extent from year to year and generally shows an increase. The following table shows the numbers issued during the past three

years and the first nine months of the present year:—

1909	773,700
1910	820,300
1911	1,145,100
1st 9 months, 1912.	1,657,750

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- T. K. Doherty, B.C.L., 1A, Chief Officer.
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 Thos. Kendrick, 3B, Clerk, Distribution Branch.
 J. A. Caron, 3B, Messenger.
 J. O'Keefe, 3B, Messenger.

There are, in addition to this regular staff, a number of temporaries employed in distributing publications.

HIGHER TRAINING FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

The London School of Economics has organized a course of instruction for the training of officers of the British army for the higher appointments on the administrative staff of the army, and for the charge of departmental services. They deal with accounting and business methods, business organization, law, economics, banking, and the money market, geography, railway transport, ocean transport and public administration. The subjects are dealt with by the lecturers in a practical manner, the object of the work in economics, for example, being to give such an equipment of knowledge in regard to the

conditions of modern commerce and industry as will be helpful for the decision of questions of administrative policy, and in geography the conditions being discussed which control movement and supply in war. The whole movement prompts *The Civilian* (London) to ask "whether our higher civil servants would not benefit very much from such supplementary courses." It adds: "Our experiences during the South African War showed the need of this kind of knowledge among our officers, and similar courses would be very beneficial to those who have the administration of our civil departments, especially of those in direct contact with the business world, like the Board of Trade and the Inland Revenue. At present the tendency is to 'muddle through' with great waste of time and resources with such knowledge as they can pick up from their official inferiors or in the course of their duties, the public suffering severely from the inevitable errors and blunders incident to such a process."

As time goes on we might at least expect our universities to consider in the preparation of their curricula not only the training necessary to pass the entrance examinations to the service but that essential to a successful subsequent career in the higher services of the state.

Inappropriate.

A company promoter once built a castle on the summit of a hill. When it was finished he was showing the gray, mediæval-looking pile to a friend. "I don't know what to call it," he said. "What name do you suggest?" "It looks like those castles in the Highlands," said the friend. "Why not call it something like Dunrobin?" "Dunrobin? Dunrobin? Yes, that would be a good name," said the company promoter, "but, you see, I have no intention of retiring yet!"

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. 1, 1912

THE NEW STATUS.

The great representative body of the Canadian Civil Service meets in annual convention ten days hence, on the 14th November. It is, therefore, expedient and, what is more to the point, also appropriate and necessary that *The Civilian* indulge in a few moral reflections in respect of this important event.

In the first place, in so far as it may do so, *The Civilian* extends a welcome to those delegates to the convention who come from points outside of the city,—those far distant pro-consuls of government who toil and weave and spin, without acclaim, in the public service. It is likely that two days will be found too short a time to discuss and present to the ministry all the subjects that are necessary and important. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the delegates will, as indeed it is their custom, confine the range of their remarks to the subjects under consideration.

* * *

The Civilian has formed strong opinions upon the essentially fundamental subject of the relationship to exist in future between the government and the elected representatives of the service. Undoubtedly it is time for the effusion of an atmosphere of mutual confidence and trust. There are analogies aplenty to support such a contention. Our correspondent "Martellus" in our last issue suggests that the service itself is the best commission on civil government to be found. He is right. In all that relates to banks and banking, the Finance Department refers, and perhaps generally defers, to the Bankers' Association. Here the department rightly expects to get first hand evidence, and has a right to expect sincere and bona fide advice. The federation should play the same role as between the service and the government as a whole. The Privy Council of Canada appoints a sub-committee to eliminate extraneous or irrelevant matters and to focus and consolidate evidence and advice. The Treasury Board is the rudder of the Ship of State. In the same manner, by a system of devolution, the government will find in the federation a surer, saner, safer expression of the needs of an efficient service than can be found in any other sources.

* * *

But the most convincing precedent and analogy in support of the foregoing doctrine is to be found in the policy of the government of New Zealand. In our issue of Oct. 4th we wrote up the annual convention of a department in that dominion. We saw that the government gives the department full partnership in the discussions relating to public efficiency and private welfare and happiness. The representative body of the Post and Telegraph department is made, in effect, an advisory board, and is recognized by special leave, by free transportation, by eliminating conferences,

etc., to be a sub-committee of government in respect of civil government.

* * *

The Civilian impresses upon the delegates about to convene the urgency of the present argument as to the new status of the federation in the councils of the government. Superannuation is a vital issue, the administration of the Civil Service Commission is important, the application of non-political methods and motives, at least in theory, to the Outside service is indispensable. But we emphasize the importance of precluding all reference to these and kindred subjects by a strong plea for a fuller recognition of the federation, democratic as it is in its constitution. A recognition which will embolden that body to speak out its mind frankly, give it courage and confidence and put it upon its mettle to serve its constituents more and more faithfully from year to year.



EFFICIENCY.

Rumors of the re-arrangement of governmental departments are in the air. It is reasonable to believe that in the rapid addition of department after department and branch after branch, to say nothing of the great growth of those services that have existed from the beginning, there should be a good deal of overlapping and waste. A committee of experts in organization could almost certainly find many cases in which, by more careful adjustment and wiser co-ordination, better results could be attained with a smaller expenditure than at present.

Such a reorganization would be welcomed by the civil service as a whole. It is a bad thing for the men as well as for the service when two men are engaged in doing work which could as well be done by one. In spite of himself the man who is en-

gaged in work which he knows to be in part wasteful becomes more interested in "holding the job" and drawing the salary than in doing the work. "Slavery," says Ruskin, "is labour without hope." And there is something essentially hopeless and slavish in work which the worker knows could be better done by somebody else or in a different way.

Yet, what can one do? The very essence of the civil service is that co-operation which is eulogized and almost made into a fetish in our great public games under the name of "team play." It is not for the individual player to decide upon a wise policy and carry it out, for he cannot move a hand effectively unless what he does is understood and played up to by his team-mates. A man may do that which, in itself, is the very essence of wisdom; but unless the others are behind him, it means confusion and defeat in the end. One can only follow the lines laid down by those in charge of the play, while hoping that changes will soon be made which will put him in a position to exert his full powers for the general good.

THE RIGHT PARAPHRASE.

An eminent religious minister who was spending the summer in the Scottish Highlands was invited to baptise the infant son of a local minister. When the time for the ceremony arrived the guest gave out for congregational singing a paraphrase much favoured on such occasions. "Let us," said he, "sing from the fifth paraphrase, beginning at the second verse, 'As sparks in close succession rise.'" To his consternation, the congregation giggled. Afterwards, asking the clerk what he had done wrong, he was told, "You must know, sir, the minister's name is Sparks, and yonder is his tenth bairn!"

At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

The Rainbow Library.

When Mrs. Wegg asked me the other day to look Simpkins up in the Blue Book—Simpkins has been calling on the elder Miss Wegg—young Silas wished to know how many colours of books there are. I spanked young Silas on general principles and other-where, this being the common procedure on the part of parents, or on the parts of children if you will, when the latter ask questions which the former cannot answer. Then I set out to consider his question with the next issue of *The Civilian* in mind. I soon saw that the number of colours which books have is infinite. So also is the number of the colours in the rainbow. However, by common consent, we give special names to seven of the rainbow hues, calling them the primary colours. Likewise I intend for the purposes of this study to consider the number of book colours as seven, the same seven which are ascribed to the rainbow, although there are many books of intermediate tints which some may place under one colour and some under another. The colours of books, therefore, shall be regarded as violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red.

The violet books are those written by minor poets and other persons of sedentary habits. Most of them contain Odes to Spring. The rest are called "The Reveries of a Retired _____," the blank being filled in by the writer for any calling or condition coming between Aristocrat and Zoologist. These are the mild and melancholy books, the cigarettes

of literature. They may not be of much solace to those "crazed with care,"—fresh air is what such need,—but they are eagerly consumed by those "crossed in hopeless love." You will find them (the books) on any well-regulated centre-table along with the truncated spheroid within which the mortuary wax flowers are kept. The production of this class of books reached its highest point in the days of the hoop-skirt, but a fair output is still maintained through the influence of advertising and the Chatauqua courses. The works of the major poets are not of the violet shade. In fact it is hard to give a name to their colour, for the mysteries of genius cannot be detected by the ordinary spectroscope which is powerless to analyze "the light that never was on sea or land."

Indigo books are written by melancholy people, but with malice prepense. We designated the violet books as mild and melancholy, or as the cigarettes of literature. This second class we may call the wild and melancholy and may liken them to old pipes in which imperfectly cured homegrown tobacco has been smoked for a decade. They give off a heavy and depressing odor. Bernard Shaw has a full battery of books of this type. The thesis of them all is that there is no truth to be found outside them. The author takes credit because he has grown in his own backyard the tobacco which he smokes, and some credit is due on that score, but a man who persists in curing his tobacco in the heat of a fetid stable instead of in the sunshine should do his smoking in strict

privacy. Carlyle, of whom it is said that he preached the gospel of silence in twenty volumes, said also that one should consume his own smoke, and he also lit up a rank literary dudeen at times when in places of public resort. Home-grown tobacco has its merits. I would free it from all the exactions of the Excise. So also has introspection its merits, but let us not go too far in the encouragement of home industries. The ultimate consumer has his rights, and the man who is compelled to take some smoking and some thinking at second hand should be given adequate protection. Indigo books should be plainly labelled as such before being placed on the market.

Now as to the blue books. We are gradually leaving the classes of books which Melancholy marks as her own but blue books are not entirely free from her sway. She rules these books by deputy, government officials being, as it were, the great proconsuls of Melancholy. Government officials are not themselves Melancholy, but they must have a melancholy look while on duty, else the public will not think that they have a due sense of their responsibilities, and their books must be sombre. Blue book literature is of two easily determined classes which we may call, with special use of the terms, the literal and the figurative. The literal class embraces reports and memoranda. The figurative class is made up of statistics. The literal class is more dreary than the figurative because we expect more comfort from words than from numerals and the gloom is doubled when we come to the fig tree and find no figs thereon. (Please note that I said fig, not figure, tree. The latter is the date palm as everyone should know). Blue books present us with literature in premature senility which is a more pitiable sight than old age duly attained. It is in the blue books that we find the same frequent repetitions, the same mouthings of formulae, which mark a man

who has begun to decay at the top. They babble, not of green fields as old Falstaff did, but of the waste places of the earth in which no water is.

The green book class comprises all those productions which a successful author wishes he had never published. They are the indiscretions of youth which pursue writers even to the third and fourth editions, and are eternalized at last as *Juvenilia* in the "Author's Complete Edition" which his executors and other persecutors publish after his death. Besides these there fall into this class the first and only books written by authors who cannot be called successful. Most of these have a large percentage of violet pages in their make-up, but the predominating shade is green. Some of these books are good fruits prematurely plucked. Others are mere hot-house fruits which never could be brought to maturity in the intellectual climate in which the authors live. You can make some sort of sauce of green apples, but lemons grown in Ungava are of little market value.

Yellow books are books which we should not read, but which we do. To maintain our horticultural figure, these are the fruits of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, mostly picked from the shady side of the tree. They are the books which we hid under the mattress when we were boys and which tempt us still on rainy days. There are degrees of yellowness in these books. There is the yellow of the "cheap and nasty" kind. Books of this shade sell only because of their cheapness and nastiness. Then there is the yellow which borders on the red of the blood-and-thunder story. A man with any of the boy left in him will find himself reading one of these books once in a while with the same relish with which on a Saturday night or on a night before a holiday he eats a dozen stalks of green onions. But beware of the books with yellow streaks in

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them. Their poisons are concealed beneath some avowed moral purpose or some alleged desire to "look the facts in the face," just as a patent medicine warranted to build up the system is made a medium for the sale of whisky without a license. A man who knows what he is drinking is safer than the good deacon who is feeling a certain spryness every morning after he starts out with a dose of the Ozone Specific which he bought for that tired feeling.

Orange books is the designation I would use for that class of partisan, patriotic or sectarian literature of which the Anti-Home-Rule publications of the Ulster people are merely types. They are not all read in Carleton County. Some books in favour of Home Rule are just as essentially of this class as those that are against Home Rule. The distinguishing characteristic of these books are zeal and blindness, which combined we call jingoism. They are written by the lesser men of the world, men who have ability to show us but one side of a question. Did you ever stop to consider that, while the moon shows only one side to us, the great Earth to which the moon is a mere hanger-on, will show us all sides if we have the patience to seek them out? Books on Canada to show us that there is no wheat lands outside of Canada, books on Johnsonism to prove that Johnson is the one and only prophet, books on Imperial Supremacy to down all "lesser breeds without the Law,"—these are the orange books, and the orange is a citrous fruit just like some others we might mention.

We have come now to the other extreme of our spectrum and have only the red books to consider. In looking back over what I have written, I find that we should not lose much if all the books of which we have been speaking had gone up in the smoke of the Alexandrian library. There must, however, be some books worth reading, and this class is re-

served for them,—the Red Books, or at least the books that should be read. I do not intend to discuss them, for my fortnightly allotment of space is pretty well exhausted. But I may enter here one observation that I have made. It is a point of grammar. If a person, speaking of some book written, say, ten years ago, remarks, "I have not read that book," it implies that the book is worth reading and may be read some time, but if a person remarks, "I did not read that book," the implication is that there was a certain time for its perusal and, that past, no one would think of picking up the book. Thus a measure of popular criticism may be obtained by observing just what tense a person uses in speaking of the books which have been before the public for some time.

Black is not a colour, so I may not deal with black books; but I may say that a black book is a directory for a good many people, and, if any of my readers have written a book at any time, I think I shall find the names of some critics or would-be critics entered therein. And, lo, old Silas' name led all the rest.

CIVIL SERVICE CLUB.

*Annual Meeting—Mr. E. A. Primeau
President for Ensuing Year.*

The annual meeting of the Club for the election of directors, receiving reports, etc., was held in the Club House on Wednesday evening, Oct. 16, at 8 o'clock.

There was a large attendance and much interest was manifested. This was due in a good measure to the fact that two amendments to the Constitution were up for discussion, viz.:

1. For the reduction of the directorate from twelve to seven members.
2. For the admission to the Club of non-members of the civil service.

Both amendments failed of adoption, but created some healthful discussion, which was carried on in a friendly, if spirited, manner.

The report of the treasurer was comprehensive and showed the Club to be on the high road to success.

The election of a board of directors for the year 1912-13 resulted as follows:—

Mr. C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer.

Mr. P. Marchand, Dept. of Interior.

Mr. Walter Rowan, Post Office Dept.

Mr. E. A. Primeau, Railway Commission.

Mr. F. Shannon, Dept. of Customs.

Mr. J. M. Chalifour, Dept. of Public Works.

The above were on the old board.

In addition the following gentlemen were elected for the first time:—

Mr. T. N. Doody, Dept. of Public Works.

Capt. F. A. Ferguson-Davie, Militia Dept.

Mr. Alex. MacMillan, Dept. of Customs.

Mr. C. B. Burns, Dept. of Interior.

Mr. F. P. Bronskill, Dept. of Public Printing.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors, Mr. E. A. Primeau was unanimously elected president; Mr. T. N. Doody, vice-president; Mr. P. Marchand, treasurer, and Mr. F. Shannon, secretary.

The two latter were re-elections. The Club looks forward to a successful winter season. Already the cosy rooms are filling up during the leisure hours of the day. A bridge whist tournament has been arranged, starting on Nov. 6th.

THE LATE GEORGE ROBERTSON.

On Friday, Oct. 18th, the civil service lost one of its members, resident in the city of St. John, who has for the past few years adorned the position of Assistant Receiver General in that city. It is not long ago

that Mr. Robertson appeared in our columns as a "Civilian Portrait," when some reference was made to his services as a citizen of St. John, and an officer of the Crown. It is now a sad duty to record his passing, and it is incumbent to pay a posthumous tribute to one whose life offers a standard of emulation which might be taken as a model by young Canadians. Mr. Robertson's career was characterized by strict personal rectitude of conduct, a business course distinguished by success under many difficulties and a patriotic and philanthropic interest in matters relating to the welfare of his country. Mr. Robertson's record calls for that simple tribute to which every worthy man aspires, the tribute embodied in Antony's eulogy over the body of the noble Brutus, "Nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'this was a man.'"

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SHORTHAND vs. POLITICS.

The Ten-Dollars-and-Thirty-Days-System of Learning Shorthand is so swift, that it is like trying to polish your nails on a buzzsaw while in motion, or trying to stick postage stamps on an electric fan revolving at the rate of a million revolves a minute. Yet it is easier to learn than any other system I know of. Other systems require time and application and patience and even thought. But this T and T D system is so easy that, with the way they are improving it nowadays, in the near future all you will have to do will be to call around at the Fountainhead of Information, hand the Fountaineer your X, and he will hand you your Diploma with your Receipt.

Well, I got the idea that there must be lots of money in Shorthand, and I decided to have a try at this Get Rich Quick System of learning it. I have since concluded that there may be money in Shorthand—for those who teach it on the Ten-Dollars-and-Thirty-Days System; that is, they get your ten dollars, and you get the thirty days; which is a good deal easier sentence, anyway, than any you are ever able afterwards to write.

Well, after I had graduated from a course of circles and hooks and curves, and felt like a double cross between a politician and a fisherman and ball player, I decided that it was right up to me to go out somewhere and reoprt something. I could make the figure 8 three hundred and eleven times a minute without taking the pencil off the paper, and I could write that grand old moth-eaten war-ery: 'Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the Conservative Party' quicker than a back county stage going through a ten foot snow drift; and I thought I was just fast enough to catch golden truth, politically speaking, warm from the lips of the speaker, and nail oratory so quick that it wouldn't have a chance to wiggle its tail if it tried to get away from me.

So when the editor of the Tin Dipper told me he wanted me to go out to a little town and make a verbatim report of the speech of the Honourable Demosthenes Blowoff Hotair, I decided that my opportunity had come; and I arrived on the scene of conflict armed with about a ream of paper from the Tin Dipper office, twelve pencils nicely sharpened at both ends, and enough confidence—when I started in—to float seven Cobalt stock companies clear down with the right of way to the Gulf of Mexico.

The meeting was in a little school-house; and by actual census there were thirty-seven people and some dogs in the audience. There was a little table, and a chair, on the platform for me, near to the chairman; and over by another table, with a jug of water and a tumbler on it, was the speaker of the evening, looking about as proud of himself as a bantam hen that knows she is laying eggs that sell at fifty cents per doz. And I pushed back my cuffs, and pulled up close to the table, like a hungry shantyman in front of a square meal.

"My Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, fellow-electors of the County of Chumps," began Mr. Hotair, in an impressive tone. Then he poured himself out a little water, while I made the shorthand signs for his eloquent opening remarks, and said to myself: "You can't get away from me, old man!" "Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, fellow-electors of the County of Chumps," repeated Mr. Hotair, squaring himself. "The yawp and the yum yum of the peripatetic yahoos who are skeddaddling around Ontario on behalf of a heterogeneous and unenlightened government that seeks to overawe and disintegrate our glorious Party, may now be heard all over Chumps County like the wail of an emaciated canine endeavouring to diassociate its caudal appendage from a bunch of Chinese fireworks." The audience at once took fire from Mr. Hotair's own py-

rotechnics, and there was loud barking and applause. Mr. Hotair looked around with the air of a man who feels that he has made an impression big enough to sit in for a minute; and I wanted to make shorthand signs to him right there that he had made an impression on me all right, all right. He impressed me with the conviction that I couldn't write shorthand worth a transcontinental wow bow, and that it was going to be about as easy for me to make a verbatim report of his speech as it is to get a job in the civil service without political influence. And if you're an English immigrant in this country without letters of introduction from the Duke of Tararaboomdeay or the Archbishop of Butterby-on-Cheese, that's no joke. I had broken four pencils in the middle, let most of my nice expensive paper from the Tin Dipper office go floating out over the audience like a shower of bargain-sale handbills, and tipped over an inkwell into the Chairman's silk hat standing hole-up on the floor by my chair. I was perspiring like an ice-pitcher in July, and feeling about as proud of myself as a woman does when she loses money. Demosthenes modestly took a peek at himself in the contents of the water pitcher; and I had time for the reflection that the stenographer who starts out to pin eloquence warm from the lips of the gifted speaker has got to have the gifted pins handy to do it with.

"Where," continued Mr. Hotair, punching a large symmetrical hole in the atmosphere with his right arm, and with a magnificent gesture of his left hand knocking the tumbler of water into the Chairman's lap, "where, whither, whereby, and whereat is the government of the day driving this fair Dominion? Sir, we are experiencing a period of unequalled, unexampled, unexcelled, unparalleled and unprincipled providential prosperity; but, sir, I say, sir, that on the other hand we have the Tariff. We have the general tariff; we have

the intermediate tariff, and we have the preferential tariff; and therefore I say, sir, where, whither, whereby and whereat are we drifting? Not longitudinally, not latitudinally, nor horizontally nor perpendicularly, nor vertically nor laterally. No, sir, not by a considerable long sight! We are careening violently, wilfully and persistently down, down the broad precipitous incline that leads to everlasting national bankruptcy and disruption, unless we immediately and forthwith adopt a drastic policy of retrenchment and transmogrification."

That settled it. I didn't try to take any more shorthand notes of that speech. I just sat back and followed along, like the old lady at the church meeting who couldn't sing, catching a word here and there, on the point of my last pencil, so to speak. The other eleven had rolled to the floor. I got some of the little words down—there was mighty little of them—and made copious notes of the cheers and applause. And when Mr. Hotair had finished his speech and the last drop of water in the jug, I gathered up my 'notes' and wrung myself out and dusted for the Tin Dipper office. I guessed at the first two sections of the speech, made up the rest, put in plenty of cheers and applause where I thought they would do the most good, and under some swell scare headlines wrote the following introduction to my verbatim report of Mr. Hotair's speech:

"Nothing in oratorical effort in recent years has equalled or even approached the magnificent address delivered at Chumpville on Thursday evening last, before a large and representative audience, by that brilliant and rising young star in the political firmament of Canada, the Honourable Demosthenes Blowoff Hotair. Mr. Hotair is a born orator, a master of rhetoric, and an elocutionist second to none when none are around. His flights of fancy would make an airship dizzy, his gestures were sweeping and graceful and carried every-



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thing before them, and in the emotional parts he was gentle as the footsteps of a hired man going to bed with his boots on at 2 a.m. Mr. Hotair is a Laurier and a Looloo, Cicero and a Chamberlain rolled into one. He has the original Demosthenes skinned a block. For two hours he held the vast audience under his spell, while with logical precision couched in limpid and lucid language that the Principal of a University might envy, he demolished the platform of his opponents to matchwood, and then fired it with the burning sarcasm of his merciless wit. With his astonishing command of language and his marvellous control of vocal inflection, he seemed to sway the feelings of his listeners at will, alternately jollying them into laughter or melting them to tears. At the conclusion of his masterly address, Mr. Hotair was presented with a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of the electors of Chumps County. It was the unanimous opinion that if there was a Federal election in the country the next day, Mr. Hotair would be elected by an overwhelming majority; and there were many present who were willing to bet large sums of stage money that the next premier of Canada would be Demosthenes Blowoff Hotair. It is estimated that at least thirty-seven counties in Ontario will petition Mr. Hotair to allow his name to be placed before the Party Conventions for nomination for election to the Federal House. The following is a full, unabridged verbatim report of Mr. Hotair's speech by our special high-salaried steno-graphic expert."

I received two dollars real money from the editor of the Tin Dipper for my services, and on the day after publication I got a box of real perfect cigars, with burlap wrappers and excelsior fillings, worth three cents apiece wholesale, and the following appreciative note from Mr. Hotair:

Mr. Steen. O'Grapher,
Editorial Rooms,
"Tin Dipper" Office.

Dear and Honord sir:

Please except the accompanying box of cigars as a mark of my appreciation and esteem for your steno-graphic skill. You caught me word for word.

Yours truly,
D. B. HOTAIR.

All of which proved to me two things: First, that there isn't any proposition in shorthand or politics too big to go up against if you have the nerve; and, secondly, that my conviction on the occasion of Mr. Hotair's address—namely, that *he* didn't know what he was talking about any more than the audience did—was unquestionably confirmed.

TWO CIVIL SERVANTS ON THE TRAMP.

No. 1.

On several occasions I suggested to a friend in the service that we take a tramp down to Montreal. Having arranged the necessary leave with the Powers we duly set off on one of the most beautiful days of the year, Sunday morning, October 20th. We chose the Quebec side of the river, with Montreal as our destination. There are several reasons in favour of the north side of the Ottawa. One is that it is the older in point of settlement, and therefore the more interesting. Another is that the villages lie at very convenient distances apart, so that one may enjoy a day's tramp of 20 miles, with stoppages at ten mile points for lunch.

While the weather overhead was delightful, the roads, owing to recent rains, were execrable. We determined, therefore, to "hit the track" for the first day at least. From Ottawa

we crossed by the Alexandra bridge to Hull, and thence by C.P.R. track to St. Rose (railway station called East Templeton). Here we had a very good lunch and started for our evening's stopping point—Masson (railway name Buckingham Junction). Arriving at the intermediate village of Angers, we thought that the roads looked good enough to try the remaining five miles over them. Alas! our mistake. We had not proceeded far before we overtook an automobile stalled in a heavy mud hole. We found out later in the day that no less than five machines had been mired that day between Hull and Masson.

At this point I wish to digress to say that the road from Ottawa to Montreal (by way of the Quebec side of the river) could be made a magnificent highway, over which tourist traffic could be developed to an enormous extent. It would benefit the farmer, too, who could haul his produce to the large centres at small cost. Every village en route would benefit, while Ottawa would receive a splendid return in the way of through travel from the large cities of both Canada and the United States. It seems strange that the different municipalities concerned, and the members re-

presenting the various counties do not take the matter up seriously. The whole route is most picturesque, lying as it does throughout its entire length right along the beautiful Ottawa river.

"Beauty in distress" always appeals to one. In the broken down auto were two young ladies who had spent the day since early morning standing beside their attendant cavaliers, who were vainly endeavoring to repair the broken chariot. We lent our assistance to push the machine out of a bog; then to throw poles over the next mud hole. But it was in vain, and finally the young ladies had to foot it to Masson to return to Ottawa by train, while the machine had to be dragged ignominiously by a couple of farm horses to the nearest railway siding. During our struggles to move the auto the writer received a bath of mud when it suddenly fell back into its original hole. It was that nasty, clinging mud, which resisted all efforts to dislodge, aided by brush and knife. However, mud does not hurt one and it was a merry party, tired and hungry, which finally arrived at the hotel kept by the hospitable Madame Fournier in Masson.

(To be continued.)



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How Educated Men Spell.

We are "in" for an Educated Civil Service, but it Would Seem That Education in not Everything.

If we set up "the ability to spell according to conventional standards" as a test of literacy, we shall be obliged to condemn our entire school system. Thus speaks Prof. William T. Foster, of Reed College, Portland, Ore., who tries to save our reputation by a plea for the simplification of spelling. Any one who doubts the truth of his generalization needs only to be told that in 10,000 short themes at Bowdoin College 2,005 errors were noted. And a recent report on the entrance examinations in English at Harvard issued by the University Publication Office gives "further evidence that the best graduates of our public schools do not know how to spell." Careful tests at several colleges for the past three years, the writer continues, in *The Journal of Educational Psychology* (April), show that over 25 per cent. of the students can not spell such common words as *licorice, existence, recommend, descendant, sieve, annulled, villain; 50 per cent. failed on accommodate, occurrence, stationary, referred, rhythm.* An analysis of the test made at Bowdoin is here given:

"The writers represent 140 preparatory schools in 15 different States, and the data was collected by five clerks, who were instructed to make note of every error, and who had no desire to prove anything in particular by the final results. These results are worth more than dictated spelling-lessons, because there is little advantage in knowing how to spell a word unless one wishes to use it in writing; though this idea no doubt seems heretical to managers of world's exhibitions and other irresponsible bodies, which have of late revived the old-fashioned spelling bee. Unlike formal spelling-lessons, these 10,000 themes approximate the conditions

under which men use the written language in daily life, and seem, in other respects, sufficiently typical and extensive to offer a safe basis for generalization.

"The following table summarizes the results:—

SPELLING ERRORS OF THREE HUNDRED STUDENTS IN TEN THOUSAND THEMES.

Words misspelled, 1,961.
Words having two errors each, 44.
Total number of errors, 2,005.

Classified as to apparent causes of error.

Carelessness	467
Mispronunciation	259
Insertion of silent letters { 853 } ...	388
Omission of silent letters { 853 } ...	465
Order of <i>ie</i> and <i>ei</i>	31
Confusion of <i>-al</i> and <i>-le</i>	33
Confusion of <i>-ent</i> and <i>-ant</i>	24
Confusion of <i>-se, -ce, -ze</i>	44
Confusion of <i>-able, -ible, -ance, -ence</i> ..	28
Spelling <i>-er</i> sound as pronounced....	167
Due to all other causes, including doubtful cases	99
Total	2,005

"Of the 2,005 errors, 467, or 23 per cent., were due to carelessness. When a student of higher mathematics allows two plus four to make seven, the error cannot be charged to ignorance of fundamental operations. No more can such spellings as *intelgent, crunb, an* (for *and*) be charged to ignorance of conventional spelling. In tracing the causes of inability to spell, therefore, these 467 mistakes must be ignored.

Of the remaining errors, 259 were apparently due to mis-pronunciation. The students carefully spelled *athletics, government, suprise, seperate, dormatory, devine, quandry* as they spoke these words, but they were faithful to unapproved pronunciations. The

present wide-spread recognition among schools of the need of securing clear, accurate spoken English, with painstaking enunciation, will diminish the number of spelling errors due to faulty speech, increase the proportion of errors due to other causes, and thus render even more conspicuous the present discrepancy between our correct symbols and our correct speech."

It is a "vain expectation," this writer thinks, that greater care in pronunciation will greatly reduce the difficulties of spelling. For even knowing the correct sound does not imply knowledge of the symbols representing them. Going on:

"The largest class of errors in spelling consists of 465 words from which silent letters were omitted. Such spellings as *begining* (found 26 times), *necesary*, *condem*, *thot*, *releas*, *mision*, *knolege* are in the direction of phonetic spelling; that is to say, they come nearer to representing our speech than the approved forms, and find abundant analogies among the approved forms of other words. From the standpoint of an ideal language, most of these 465 incorrect forms were preferable to the correct forms.

"The opposite error is the insertion of silent letters. Among the 388 members of this class, the following are typical: *Amoung*, *deffinition*, *occassion*, *charachter*, *profession*, *harmfull*, *should*, *comming*. Nearly all of the errors in this group come about apparently through the more or less conscious effort of the student to spell according to analogies with approved spellings that are precisely as irrational and wasteful. But in English

spelling, as a general rule, he who reasons is lost. These two classes of errors—those due to the omission of silent letters in the direction of an ideal system, and those due to the insertion of silent letters through analogies with correct forms—comprise 853, or 55 per cent., of the total real errors in spelling. The remaining errors, as the table shows, were for the most part due to the confusion of various endings that are pronounced alike but spelled differently."

Various conclusions may be drawn from this test. Among them—

"One tends to support the contentions of those who hold that the reforms thus far proposed by the Simplified Spelling Board would not accomplish all that is sometimes claimed by those unacquainted with the movement; for it may be noted that only 155 of the 2,005 misspellings occur in words contained in the lists first recommended by the Board. On the other hand is the highly significant fact that 76 per cent. of the errors in spelling were clearly due to the chaotic condition of a language in which correct spelling fails to represent correct speech. So far, therefore, as this study may be regarded as a safe basis for generalization, it proves that the majority of the difficulties that confront the fittest intellects among grown-up spellers, because of which they must be dubbed illiterate, according to conventional standards, in spite of long years of school drill—the majority of these troubles, it is clear, would disappear with a conservative extension of the principles of simplification advocated by the Simplified Spelling Board."

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A. H. Shouldis.

The Letter Carriers.

The following letter refers to our editorial of Sept. 20th, and further analyzes the plight of the Carriers.

Editors of *The Civilian*:

My attention has been drawn to an item appearing in the September issue of your paper, under the heading Letter Carriers, which gives an account of the subject matter of certain resolutions introduced on behalf of the letter carriers at the recent annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which was held in Guelph, Ont., Sept 9-14 inclusive, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of your favorable reference to the matter. I also ask the privilege of offering a brief explanation of the case referred to, as I quite realize the possibility of doubt existing in the minds of some regarding the statements quoted and accredited to a representative of the carriers.

It is quite true that a delegate to that convention, although not representing the letter carriers, did state that a common laborer working on the streets in Victoria, B.C., is better paid than a letter carrier. The following figures were stated in connection with the above:—Statutory salary of a letter carrier: grade A, \$1.75 per day, time in grade anything under six months; grade B, \$2.00, time in grade 2 years; grade C, \$2.25, time in grade 2 years; grade D, \$2.50, being maximum statutory pay. Grade E, \$2.75 per day, promotion to which is provided for by the Act, as a recognition for specially meritorious service. In Victoria, however, the practice is to promote any carrier with satisfactory record to this grade any time after he attains to grade D. A provisional allowance of \$15.00 per month is allowed every carrier west of the great lakes, which brings the above rate of pay to a relatively higher point.

In the meantime a common laborer on the streets, etc., is paid \$3.00 per day of eight hours. The department

when taking on extra men as prospective carriers, pays them \$2.50 per day. But when any of them are found to be efficient and are appointed their initial wage is \$1.75 + \$15.00 per month, or about \$2.25 per day, giving a carrier in grade A some 75c per day less than the laborers and with a prospect of attaining to a laborer's pay only in some four years and a half, provided he is extremely lucky. The average letter carrier realizes his position as a workingman. He feels like one; if not by mental process, he is convinced of his position by the very effective methods of nature, when once physical energy is exhausted, by finding himself played out. Realizing this to be his condition the carriers have lost no time in getting where they belong, into the ranks of the organized workers. The Federated Association of Letter Carriers has been and still is a part and parcel of the organized labor movement of Canada. We pay a per capita tax to the Trades and Labor Congress, every last man of us, and in return we have the backing and support of the entire six thousand that are represented in the Congress. I believe, too, that the prospects of getting the concessions asked for, particularly that of increased pay, are very favorable. In conclusion, let me say this: The methods pursued by the carriers, in their endeavor to improve their condition, are frank and open. The Postmaster General and the P. O. Department are the first to be informed of any improvement they desire, and so in this case the department is advised of these matters long before Congress met. But the carriers find it to their advantage to make their presentments through the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

CHRISTIAN SIVERTZ.

Victoria, B.C., Oct. 7th, 1912.

Correspondence.

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

GOD SAVE THE KING.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Your correspondent "Inquirer" wishes to know how our King has greater claim to the throne of England than the King of Italy; in this connection I would offer a few comments.

The King of Italy is descended from Victor Emmanuel II, King of Sardinia, descendant of the Duke of Savoy, who claims descent from Wittekind the Great, tenth from Hengist who was four generations removed from Odin, (See Herald's College M. S.), through Odin's *youngest* son Skiold.

Our King is grandson of Queen Victoria, who was the daughter of Edward of Kent, son of George III, son of Frederick, son of George II, (whose daughter Louisa was the great-grandmother of Queen Alexandra); George II was son of Ernest Augustus who through thirteen generations of male ancestors was descended from Henry the Lion, son of Henry IV, son of Henry III. Henry the Lion married Maud, daughter of Henry II, son of Geoffrey the descendant of the kings of Jerusalem. Geoffrey married Matilda, daughter of St. Margaret, who married Malcolm, the 7th generation from Kenneth Macalpin, the 1st King of Scotland.

St. Margaret was 7th generation from Alfred the Great and 25 generations from Baeldaeg, *eldest* son of Odin; (see Anderson, Du Chaillu, Haigh, and Sharon Turner).

So King George is the rightful claimant, whilst Victor Emmanuel of Italy disqualifies away back some half a hundred generations before Queen Victoria, who is probably the "female progenitor" referred to by "Inquirer."

But tracing our Sovereign through another branch, we can get back to Wittekind the Great without a single female break; for Edward VII was the son of Prince Albert, son of Ernest Frederick, son of Francis, who was 26 generations from Wittekind through a direct male line. So through this "collateral" line our King can rightly lay claim to the throne of England *equally* with the King of Italy.

In fact, I will retaliate and state my conviction that our King has a greater right to lay claim to the throne of Italy than the King of Italy has to lay claim to the throne of Great Britain; this through Henry VII, who is descended, in absolutely direct line, the individuals being too numerous to mention here, from Constantine the Great, Emperor of Rome; (See *Annales Cambriae*).

Trusting that this may elucidate this genealogical problem for "Inquirer," and that I have not encroached too much on your valuable space, which I have done as little as possible,

Yours,

W.

Ottawa, Oct. 18th, 1912.

Athletics.

Already hockey enthusiasts are getting busy forming slates for the coming season. The game will certainly get an impetus in Toronto with the opening of the new Arena, the largest covered building in Canada. Heretofore uncertain weather conditions have operated against the Queen City, but as the new rink is to have artificial ice, no games will have to be postponed—which marks a new era.

In Ottawa there is strong feeling against the new 6 man team and a determined effort is being made to return to the old septette—also the old system of governing officials. Time will tell.

THE UNIONIZING OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

The following editorial from the Boston Herald deals with a number of phases of unbusinesslike public business; especially referring to the demoralizing influence of politics in the rural mail delivery of the United States.—Editors.

Congress has in effect decided to permit postal employees to affiliate with the American Federation of Labour. In the past nothing pointing toward eventual unionizing of the government's forces has been encouraged. Mr. Roosevelt issued a distinct order against the rural carriers making a direct approach to Congress for better pay. The army and the navy have long been prohibited from going to Congress to get better compensation, or otherwise attempting to influence its action except through the heads of the respective departments to which they belong.

The union idea in the federal service bears little relation to unionism in the ranks of private business. One might be the strongest possible advocate of the closed shop in factory, railroad and mill, and still balk at its application to government operations. The reasons for this distinction are worthy of a little study.

Private business is limited in volume to the amount which can be conducted successfully. Government operations can go on, with increased costs, so long as there is a dollar left with the fellow who pays the taxes.

In private business ends must meet. If the labour cost of making a pair of shoes, for example, became sensationally high, there would be fewer shoes made and worn. In the long run that business and every other must adjust itself to obtainable revenues. On the railroad labour cost works itself out in freight and passenger rates. No owners of any business would long stand under

a loss. The managers have to balance accounts or go out, and this necessity operates to hold in check the extreme claims of the more hot-headed unionists.

Now see by an illustration how it works in the government: Twenty years ago somebody proposed to start rural free delivery in this country. To give employment for farmers' sons, with a barn full of horses, it was declared that three hundred dollars a year would man the service, and estimates of its wide application were based on this figure. But what has happened? Even in advance of unionism, the rural carriers are now getting twelve hundred dollars a year, and they must be amazed at their own moderation.

No occupant of a seat in Congress would dare to have the rural carriers who ride through his district tell his constituency that he was mean, particularly since little of this extra money would come out of him, and quite as likely as not he has himself failed in private business, and possesses no apprehension of the meaning of a ledger. No newspaper in such a district would oppose his liberality to the rural carriers at the risk of having them throw out its copies from house to house, with gruff expressions of surprise that anybody should take so crabbed a sheet.

The fundamental absurdity in the rural free delivery situation is a uniform rate of wages throughout the country, when the meaning of a dollar in all other callings differs by localities almost beyond belief. The twelve hundred dollar rate is none too high here, but it is just about three times the sum needed to get the work done in large sections of the land. A supervisor of one of the southwestern states reported that when he entered the average town to select someone for this service he could count on the fingers of one hand the men who would not welcome the opportunity. He could us-

ually call to it the leading banker, educator, or merchant. And of course this salary is only in its beginning. Rural carriers will in a few years get \$2000 per annum. And why should they stop there?

The old idea of a government position was that people accepted it or left it on the terms voluntarily offered. This theory has been abandoned. New public employees accept places, and then organize to make them still more profitable. Ex-Senator Aldrich once said the American people were paying three hundred million dollars a year more than was necessary for the cost of their federal government. And with each successive increase of federal function this excess will advance. The parcels post will add another fifty millions.

The only President since Cleveland who has ever made any serious efforts to reduce the volume of public expenditure has been Mr. Taft, through the economy and efficiency commission, on which the Democrats look with unconcealed disfavor. And there is nothing in Mr. Taft's experience up to date which will encourage other aspirants for public favor to select economy as a specialty.

The government ought to be an open shop. It is expensive enough, if conducted on terms offered by

Congress; it will be immeasurably more so if, against timid law-makers and a supine and time-serving press, the force of organization influence is brought to bear, in pursuit of those wages and conditions of ineffectiveness, which each group of individual beneficiaries sees fit to ask for.

Useful Little Things.

A Yorkshire farmer, who worked but a few acres and whose transactions were always small enough to be settled in coin of the realm, one day received a cheque for some cattle he had sold. It was the first he had ever seen. "What's this?" he said. "Why, money for the beasts!" said the cattle-dealer. The farmer was dubious and had to be assured that if he took it to the bank they would give gold for it. "Well," said he, "Aw'll try, but, if it's a wrong 'un, thou'll hear about it!" The cheque was dully cashed, and the farmer went home happy, but he could not sleep. He had seen a wonderful thing, and it had excited him. As soon as day broke he went to the cattle-dealer's house and woke the dealer. "It's me," he said; "where's tha get thim bits of paper from! Aw could do wi' half a dozen myself!"

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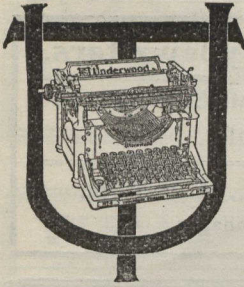
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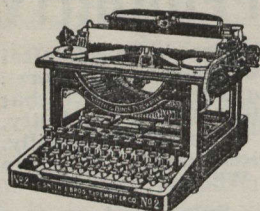
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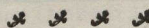
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