

# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. III.

MARCH 24th, 1911

No. 24

## Civil Service Federation of Canada.

### Call for Third Annual Convention.

Dear Sir,—

Ottawa, March 18, 1911.

The constitution of the Civil Service Federation requires that the annual convention of the federated bodies should be held during the month of March.

It has seemed advisable to the officers, however, for the present year to select Thursday and Friday, April 20 and 21, as the dates on which to hold the convention of delegates, the understanding being that the convention may be extended over April 22nd if the business of the meeting be not sooner concluded.

It may be of interest in giving this notice to refer briefly to the present situation in the affairs of the Federation and of the service generally.

In January last, the executive of the Federation had a very encouraging interview with the Prime Minister, when a formal memorial was presented, copies of which have since appeared in the press. It is in connection with the subjects discussed in this memorial and the good hopes then held out by the Prime Minister, especially with regard to increased salaries and superannuation, that the present occasion is of special importance.

It seems to the executive that it is now a most opportune time to follow up the requests made in this interview. The House is in session, and the opportunity should be seized to take up with the ministers and members the various matters in which the service has so vital an interest. The outlook was never more favourable. It is, therefore, exceedingly important that the convention should have a representative of every association throughout Canada present. Where possible, the executive thinks it would be advisable to send more than one delegate; certainly in every case, the full quota allowed by the constitution should be sent.

As there are many arrangements to make in connection with the convention, and especially in connection with the different interviews that are planned, will you kindly inform the executive at the earliest possible moment what delegates your association will send. Kindly, in this connection, take up the memorial, of which a copy has appeared in *The Civilian*, and send specific instructions as to whether you think it can be strengthened. Above all, please attend to these matters without delay.

N.B.—It is especially important that your delegates should come with full instructions from every class represented in your organization.

J. A. SMITH,  
President

R. H. COATS,  
Secretary.

## HOW AN OFFICE WOMAN MAY KEEP HER HEALTH.

The following article was contributed by a business woman to a recent health magazine, and its excellent advice may give many ideas of great benefit to the women in the civil service. Whether they could be carried out or not will be considered in an article which will follow in the next issue of *The Civilian*:

"I had to learn by experience," she writes. "After I had been in the office a short time, I found it beginning to wear on me. I found myself growing weary and nervous, tired of my work, and dreading the future. I looked around me at the scores of business women who were nervous wrecks, who dragged themselves listlessly through their work, who broke down long before they should; and I determined, then and there, that if it was in my power, I should not become like one of them.

"I made out a daily schedule for myself, with the aid of books on hygienic living and health articles, and followed that programme as closely as possible. I selected physical exercises which I felt would do me the most good. Each morning, on arising, I practise them, with windows wide open, breathing deeply all the time. I have time for only a few movements, but I try to make those include exercises which should, as a whole, strengthen every muscle in my body. Sometimes I can give twenty minutes to my exercises, sometimes only ten, but I always give at least *ten*.

"I follow up my exercises by a quick sponge-bath in cool water — not ice cold.

"I take plenty of time for my breakfast, never allowing myself to hurry through it. After a good deal of experimenting, I found the one which seemed to be most suitable for me. I take a raw egg beaten up in a glass of milk, accompanied by fruit, cereal, toast, and usually a cup of cereal coffee.

"Breakfast over, I walk to the office. Unless the weather is very stormy, I never deviate from this custom. It takes me a half hour, and I try to enjoy the walks as much as possible, to breathe deeply all the way, to keep the proper walking position — head up, chest high, weight on the balls of my feet. I do not allow myself to think of business, or worry of any kind; I simply enjoy the walk and the fresh air. I try to observe as many things as possible, so as to give my mind healthful occupation, and thus make the exercise all the more helpful. I never hurry; I always allow myself plenty of time, but I walk with a brisk, rather quick step, as I find walking in that way does me more good. When I arrive at the office, after my morning walk, I feel fresh and invigorated, and ready for my day's work.

"I am a great believer in plenty of fresh air, and I have my office well ventilated. I always have one window up at least an inch or two, so that I have a steady current of fresh air in the room while I am working. I keep a screen, which I adjust to avoid drafts. I breathe deeply all the time, and, as often as I can during the morning, I go to the window, throw it open wide, and take five or ten good, deep breaths. It does not interfere with my work, for I find when I return to my desk that I am stronger and able to accomplish more work in a shorter time than if I had not stopped to take the new life which breathing the fresh air gives me.

"I always try to keep the correct position while working, never to stoop or allow myself to become round-shouldered over my desk. I use a straight-backed chair, and sit with spine erect, chest high, shoulders down, and head up. I never suffer from backache or pain in the waist muscles, of which so many sedentary workers complain, and I think the reason for this is my maintaining at all times this erect posi-

tion. Every chance I get,—say, every hour or so,—I sit back in my chair and rest and relax all over for about two minutes, closing my eyes and relaxing every muscle. It is surprising how this little rest refreshes and strengthens.

“I am a believer in mental hygiene, too, and I try to enjoy my work as much as possible. I do not allow it to degenerate into a dreary routine, as so many business women do. I say to myself that each piece of work, no matter how small and commonplace, is necessary, and is the right work for me to do at the time, or I would not be called upon to do it, and I do it the very best I know how, and put my interest into it, and enjoy it while I am doing it. I try, always, to keep a cheerful frame of mind and not to allow myself to be upset or worried by trifles or to lose my self-poise. I try to keep as happy as possible at all times, for I realize that a cheerful, contented disposition makes work much easier and life much happier.

“At noon I eat a very light lunch—a sandwich, and a cup of milk and some fruit, or a bowl of clear soup, or some toast and a glass of milk—always something simple and easily digested. I have the good fortune to belong to a woman’s club, where I get my lunch, and, afterward, go to the rest-room and take at least a fifteen minutes’ good rest on the couch. After this I take a brisk walk of fifteen minutes or so in the fresh air before I return to my afternoon duties.

“During the day I drink a glass of clear, cool water—not ice-water—every hour, between meals, and I always drink two glasses on rising and two on retiring.

“Our office closes at five in the afternoon, and then I leisurely walk home. I never hurry. I endeavour to dismiss from my mind completely the cares and incidents of the day, and to forget that I am a business woman, and have been in a rushing, busy office all day.

“When I reach home, I go straight to my room, take off all the clothes I have worn during the day, take a warm bath, and lie down in a loose robe, utterly relaxing every muscle, and rest for half an hour before dinner. Then I dress. I always keep one or two pretty, fluffy evening gowns, which I wear to dinner, even when I do not expect company and am not going out, for I find that a dainty, dressy gown refreshes me wonderfully, and I feel like a different person from the one who has been in the severe garb of the business woman all day.

“I eat a good, nourishing dinner, and enjoy it.

“My evenings I spend in utter recreation. I allow myself three evenings a week in which to ‘dissipate,’ as I call it—which includes attending a good lecture, or going to some congenial social function. I found that I simply could not keep late hours every evening in the week, and incur the consequent excitement and fatigue, if I wished to keep my health and be able to do my work properly. So I limit myself to three evenings a week. On the remaining nights I make it a point to retire early, not later than nine o’clock, and before I go to bed I read some light, entertaining book, or enjoy some music or conversation with the rest of the family; sometimes I make a short call in the neighbourhood, but always return before nine o’clock.

“On my half-holidays, and on Sundays, I try to spend as much time as I can in the open air, on the porch or walking or driving in the country.

“After long years of experience, I find that my way pays me. It keeps me strong and well and able to do my work, which is of the first importance; and it enables me to enjoy life as much as possible, for I have accepted the inevitable, and I do not allow myself to pine for any of the pleasures and privileges I am obliged to miss.”

(To be Continued.)

## Annual Meeting of Dominion Civil Servants' Association of British Columbia.

The annual general meeting of the Dominion Civil Servants' Association of British Columbia was held at New Westminster, B.C., on the 11th ultimo, and was well attended by representatives from the three branches of the Association which have their headquarters at Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster. As there was a great deal of business to be transacted it was found necessary to hold an evening session as well as an afternoon session of the meeting.

The annual report and financial statement of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. F. Trant, showed the Association to be in good condition, notwithstanding that the membership had somewhat decreased since the last annual meeting. In his report Mr. Trant stated briefly what were the chief of the steps taken by the Association during the year for the furtherance of the interests of its members, pointed to the instances of the amelioration of the condition of some of the branches of the service as indications that the advantages of organization are becoming manifest, and exhorted the members of the Association to a renewal of the enthusiasm and energy which led to the formation of the Association and upon which its usefulness depends.

The question of sending a delegate to the Federation Convention was discussed, and it was unanimously decided to send a delegate who should be fully instructed with regard to the needs of the various branches of the service. Mr. F. R. Greer, Chief Clerk, Customs, Vancouver, was chosen for this duty, and in the short speech with which Mr. Greer thanked the meeting for the confidence it had in his ability worthily to represent the Association at the Convention there was

ample evidence to show that the choice is not an ill one.

In the election of officers which then took place all the offices were filled without a contest. Mr. J. R. Greenfield, P. O. Inspector, who had already occupied the president's chair for two terms, expressed a desire that he might be relieved of the office, but the meeting was unanimous in its entreaties that he would continue another year in the office he has so ably filled, and when at last he succumbed to those entreaties his decision was received with prolonged applause. The officers elected are:

President—J. R. Greenfield.

Vice-President (Vancouver) — F. R. Greer.

Vice-President (Victoria) — D. McLean.

Vice-President (New Westminster)—Rev. A. E. Vert.

Secretary-Treasurer—W. F. Trant.

Executive — (Vancouver): J. F. Murray, J. O. MacLeod, E. B. Parkinson, J. F. Power, J. B. Marshall-say, W. A. Blair, J. B. Allan, G. Maillene, N. Allan; (Victoria): B. F. Shephard, W. H. Harris, D. Jones, F. Armstrong, G. L. Milne; (New Westminster): G. A. Allen, J. W. MacDonald, E. D. Lennie.

A vote of thanks and an honorarium were accorded to Mr. W. F. Trant for his services as Secretary-Treasurer during the past year.

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### SOME MOTTOES.

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Worry—interest paid on trouble before it falls due.

The man that endures is the man that wins.

Make your own opportunities.

Pessimism—mental indigestion.

Cheerfulness and perseverance are nine-tenths of success.

Ability—the explanation of your success.

Luck—the explanation of the other fellow's success.

## Will Remain in the Family.

A special general meeting of the members of the Civil Service Savings and Loan Society was held in the Carnegie Library on Thursday evening, March 16, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of considering the advisability of becoming incorporated. A large number of members were present. In opening the meeting the President, Mr. William Mackenzie, of the Privy Council, briefly reviewed the progress of the Society, and at the same time outlined the principles and ideals by which the organization has been actuated from the beginning. The results so far accomplished have been most gratifying to the membership at large. The Society is purely co-operative. Money is received from the members either on deposit or in the purchase of shares, and from the fund thus established loans are made to worthy members in need of such assistance. This constitutes the sum total of the operations of the Society. Each member must hold at least one share, the maximum number which any member may hold being 100. The shares are \$5.00 each and are withdrawable at any time on one month's notice. Each member has but one vote at all meetings, no matter how many shares he may hold. The "one member, one vote" and the withdrawable shares principles are essential to co-operation, otherwise money will become the controlling influence. The Society has at present sufficient funds to supply the needs of its membership. This is of course a most satisfactory state of affairs. Through the good offices of this beneficent institution usury has been made impossible in the service and a spirit of brotherhood has been developed.

As there is no co-operative legis-

lation in the Province of Ontario, that is legislation conducive to the carrying on of business on the principles hereinbefore outlined, the meeting was called for the purpose of considering the advisability of becoming incorporated under a special Act of the Ontario Legislature framed in accordance with the terms of the Loan Corporations Act which is intended solely for large joint stock financial undertakings. It was very generally felt by the members present that co-operation under the said Act would be exceedingly difficult if not impossible, inasmuch as the principle "one member, one vote" and the withdrawable share feature could not be retained; and it was thought that the advantages of incorporation were not sufficiently material to warrant the abandoning of these principles, especially as it is almost certain that there will be Federal co-operation legislation during the present or the next session of Parliament. Another objection urged against going under the Loan Incorporation Act was that the Society would cease to be purely a voluntary family organization, strictly confined to the urgent needs of the service, and would be doing business in competition with other loan companies. At present the only enemy the Society has is the usurer. It was therefore unanimously decided to continue to carry on the beneficent work as heretofore until such time as either Provincial or Federal co-operative legislation is enacted.

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*The Civilian* has been asked to state that in the list published some time ago of clerks of Div. III. who have passed the qualifying and promotion examinations, the name of Miss Burgess, of the Audit Department, Halifax, N.S., should have been included as having passed both examinations.

# THE CIVILIAN

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

Ottawa, Mar. 24th, 1911

## FRATERNAL FEDERATIONS.

In all probability the third annual convention of the Canadian C. S. Federation next month will take place on or about the same date at which a meeting having the object of forming a similar federation for the British Isles will be sitting in England. An exchange of greetings between the two would seem in order. With the Colonial Conference placing high on its list of subjects for discussion the interchange of civil servants between the various Dominions of the Empire and the Mother Country, the services themselves might well take an interest in the movement, to the extent at least of forming a bowing acquaintance.

## CIVIL SERVANTS IN MUNICIPAL LIFE.

Capital Ward, Ottawa, is to a large extent a civil servants' ward,

and so it is not surprising to see a number of the government officials identified with the Citizens' League just formed there. The president of the league is Auditor General Fraser and the secretary is Mr. Ide, of the Dept. of Agriculture. Messrs. Campbell and Drake, of the Forestry Branch, and Mr. Bill, of the Annuities' Branch, are on the executive committee. This organization has for its object the investigation of civic problems, the review of civic administration and other organized activities which may lead to good municipal government. It has already aided in the campaign for the re-organization of the Board of Health, and a meeting is to be called soon for the discussion of the question of government by commission. There is a field here for civil servants, who are to some extent debarred from municipal office, to aid in the betterment of the city.

## GARNISHEE.

Sir Allen Aylesworth's statement on the garnishee question has evoked many comments from the press, but *The Civilian* must admit that the mass makes sorry reading for one who is expecting intelligence. Almost without an exception they see nothing in it but a defense of a special privilege; incidentally, of course, the civil servant emerges, as by a sort of universal consent, as a dead beat and spendthrift. As *The Civilian* has often pointed out, the civil servant is not greatly concerned in the garnishment issue *per se*. Only, if we are to be treated as ordinary employees in this respect, then we must be treated like ordinary employees in other respects and be permitted to assign our salaries, bring suit against a department in cases of dispute, go on strike, as Sir Allen Aylesworth suggests, and in general treat the government as a private employer.

## CO-OPERATIVE BANKING AT LEVIS, QUE.

While we are discussing with renewed interest at Ottawa the constitution of the Civil Service Loan and Savings Society, it may be of interest to note the splendid showing of the "Caisse Populaire" of Levis, whose report for 1910 is just to hand. In this small municipality and with a membership confined to the working class, the business transacted last year totalled \$136,903. Mr. Desjardins, the President of the bank, who is a civil servant, may well be proud of the results he has accomplished by rigorous adherence to co-operative principle, for by no other method could it have been accomplished. The civil service bank at Ottawa is now headed definitely in the same direction and we may justly expect results that will soon leave those with smaller opportunities far behind.

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## MR. WALTERS' "JINGLES."

In his "Civil Service Jingles" Mr. H. McD. Walters has turned the genius of his pen to entertainment rather than to instruction. Yet there are flashes of philosophy, such as appear in "I Play the Game" and "The Ragged Edge," which disclose a serious plane of thought. Some of his apothegms are also in a vein of deep reflection. For the most part, however, his prose and verses are satirical. They deal with aspects of civil service and social life which afford play for a light and breezy style. "The Cruise of the Porkypine" is one of the best of that class. It is always very much of a gift to write good doggerel, and it invariably takes brains to lampoon without becoming coarse. Mr. Walters has written some bright and catchy verses, and he has poked fun at men and institutions without either being commonplace or offen-

sive. In these efforts he has made a happy use of the medium of dialect. But there has got to be something in a sketch besides mere dialect, however good it may be — some substance, some point, some purpose — and Mr. Walters does not fail in these respects.

Mr. Walters' "Jingles" will, of course, appeal directly to civil servants, because they deal very largely with subjects arising on Parliament Hill; but there is a great deal in the book — which, by the way, is a neat piece of printer's work — which will interest people outside the service. "The Revolt of Johns" and "Willie" and "The Idiot Who Thought," as well as half a dozen other little stories, relate to life at large. If these sketches have any fault, it is probably to be found in an occasional suggestion of cynicism. But that is a matter of taste. If "The Evolution of Alexander" seems to give a depressing view of some of the human virtues, a ready and effective antidote is found in the merry and musical measures of "Madge."

Taken altogether, "Jingles" is not a book with which the critic will be disposed to find fault. It is so palpably unassuming, so obviously intended to merely amuse, so much a mere pot-pourri of fun and philosophy, of rhyme and reason, without plan or pretention — the product of a witty and versatile mind — that the reader cannot find it in his heart to be analytical or captious. It admirably serves the end for which it was compiled — to while away in agreeable fashion an idle hour. It seems to have found favor with civil servants, and the first edition bids fair to be soon exhausted.

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A strenuous campaign is being waged by the Civil Service League of New York State to insure that on the accession of the Democrats to power in that State no raid on the public offices takes place.

## Human Documents Re-read.

If you would be a well-read man, the first thing to do is to get to love one book. Then you will gather about it a mass of information that will radiate in many directions, and find new centres from which other radiations will begin. I think the first book I really came to love was Tennyson's "Idylls of the King." I know that I don't know anything at all as I ought to know it, least of all Tennyson and the things that make him. But I have a pretty decent collection of books that illuminate the man and none of them have cost me very much but hard study. No man can get a knowledge of books, just from a commercial instinct, because he wants to make money out of them. The best booksellers let every good book go with a sigh, and are on the look-out for another to replace it as soon as possible. Or, perhaps, the best bookseller is the man who knows the likes and dislikes of his customers, and puts a book on one side, saying, "I must show Mr. Smith this." The true born genius of bookseller hunts books, very much as mother cats hunt mice, with an eye for the kitten. When the mouse is caught, she sits there in supreme content watching the fun. No, nothing will take the place of individual study and love of a book in making a library. It is not supplied by copying your neighbour's. If a man wants to have the books that Mr. So-and-So has, he is born as the foolish woman is born and ought to betake himself to bonnets and not books. He will never be a student. His bargains will turn to dust and his knowledge is vanity. If there is no individuality in the book-lover, what profit hath he of all his labour under the sun? He will worship little tin gods, and boast a little tin soul.

So also, if you regard human books from the dollar standpoint you will never be a lover of mankind,

you will simply be a blind beggar in the World Beautiful and starved amidst the bounty of its bookshelves. But—here is a document the dullest scholar may read:

### "NINETEEN."

There are Japanese lanterns galore on the lawn. Joining her artistic sense to the Boy's ingenuity, the little mother holds up the flimsy things while the Boy ties them to the wire. He is a head taller than she. He also claims a half inch over Dad. It has been a hard day on the Boy and his mother, but they don't mind. They are getting ready for the Boy's nineteenth birthday lawn party, which is to be an event in the family annals. Inside, the house looks spacious and empty. Things have been taken out to make room for the seventy "kids" who are coming to the party. It will require four rooms and the verandah and the lawn to hold them. In the kitchen, tables are piled with cakes and candies. Locked in the kitchen-annex is the ice cream, safe from the predatory younger set who lust after it, more for mischief's sake than appetite. People who pass by on the street, observing the decorations, say, "Having a party there, I suppose."

Father comes home from his work. At the sight of the lanterns and the Boy and his mother his eyes glisten and his face brightens and there is a little tightening in his throat. Then he gets his orders from the Boy and his mother. He helps to round up the corners in his awkward way. The Boy goes upstairs to take his bath and put on his good clothes. The tired little woman is exhorted to lie down a few minutes, but is altogether too occupied. What a wonder is the slight, sweet-faced, little mother!

Here come the "kids." They are not too old to resent the same. No



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society folk are they, mind you, but you will find no such spruce, handsome young fellows or beautiful girls among the "four hundred." Some of them have been class-mates of the Boy through the Public and High Schools. Some of them are the neighbours' children. All of them are all right. And what fellowship! Boy, you will never know its like again—never in this world—and you do well to make a party in its name. Just a little bit self-conscious and slow at first is this jolly hearty crowd of boys and girls, but a very little jostling sets them chattering like magpies.

The "old man" is outside acting as policeman. He keep a keen eye on the lane in the rear. And as he smokes, memory's open door shows pictures of the past. The Boy! He was such a fat little fellow when he was born! Remember how cute he looked in kilts! A fine, big head covered with ..... And, noisy? Whew! And when he grew older, expensive? My! But always was he a boy—a boy to the full. Ah, you nineteener; Dad doesn't get the caresses the little mother gets and he doesn't want them. He prefers your rough and tumble way of telling him. And under his vest (grown ampler with the years) there's a mighty big corner in his heart for the Boy. . . . "Here there, you fellows, get away from that kitchen door, will you?"

Father is an onlooker and sits in the shadows on the lawn, except when he helps move the chairs for the photographer's group. But don't you think his heart is old as he watches the games. And the little mother, worn with the day's strain—why, when she helps to serve the ice cream in her white gown she looks as young as any of the girls, don't you think? You do well, my son, to make much of the woman who bore you. Busy, hustling, happy. Five feet ten! His laugh, toned to the high tenor, rings out above all the rest. It seems so to father,

at least. He is master of ceremonies and directs the games. Having stipulated that no old folks shall be in evidence he does it finely. Oh, that Boy will make his way all right.

"Good-bye, old man. Glad you had a good time. . . . Good-bye, girls, see you Christmas. . . . You bet. . . . All right. . . . Good-bye, everybody"—this the Boy to his friends. And the merry crowd in couples and in groups departs. . . . The candles and the fantastic lanterns have burned to their sockets. Some of them burned off the string and fell on the cushions before the old man could get to them. The lawn is all shadows now save where the spluttering gasoline torch lights up a corner. And next Monday the Boy goes away to college. Next Monday!

Father and son have always been chums. They have wrestled on the floor till mother feared for the furniture. Hail fellows, well met, the man and the Boy — for nineteen years. And somehow the man over there in the shadows, gathering up the things, feels that next Monday he will bid good-bye not only to the Boy, but to the Boy's boyhood! When he comes back from college next Spring he will not sprawl his arms over the dining-table. He will be taught manners. There will be enough boy left, perhaps, to tease his sister by stretching his big feet under the table to her side. But there will be a touch, a bit of manhood in the Boy. "What's the matter with that light?"

Nineteen and unspoiled, clean, wholesome, hearty, genuine and tender-hearted. What sort of a man will you make, My Boy? Thus far you have come the primrose way. You have always lived under June skies and have never known a chill December. Madrigals of laughter have been your heritage since you cooed and laughed in your cradle. Yours has been the glorious morning face of innocence and truth. You have never told your mother a

lie. The glow in your eyes has been the gleam of happy human eyes. Say, My Boy, in that world where they hurt the tender-hearted and murder innocent laughter, will they spoil you?

No! Not if you keep your life unspotted and your soul undaunted. The world will aim its blows at you. It may strike you in its anger. It may disappoint you. But if you love it, it will love you. The world worships a mind-true, heart-whole man. Yes, worships. Serve it, love it, though it may be unlovely at times, and it will love you back. The world is built that way.

It is past midnight. The Boy is taking one of the girls home. Mother and sister are looking at the birthday presents. And father, snug in bed, murmurs ere he sleeps:

"Nineteen years. Is it so long ago as that?"

R. W. DILLON.

### OF THE HYPHEN.

One, John E. Rosser, a statistician, discusses the general tendency to do away with unnecessary marks of punctuation, noting that the hyphen is still uselessly retained in "to-day," "to-night," and "to-morrow." Useless and criminal is how this retention is described. Rosser goes on to demonstrate this by mathematics.

There are 178,236,592 English-speaking people. The words "to-day," "to-night," and "to-morrow" are together used forty-eight times daily by every person—five of these being written out in long-hand. Thus the daily output of hyphens in these words totals 891,182,460. Taking the average of a written hyphen to be one quarter of an inch, you have a straight line 3,864 miles long. At the usual rate of writing it would take one man seventy-six years to insert the hyphens in these words,

and his salary would amount to \$78,436.

But, avoiding all theory, "to-day," "to-night," and "to-morrow" are daily hyphenated four times each on 234,192 typewriters and three times daily on 184,212 linotype machines. Remembering that a pressure of one ounce is required to strike a typewriter key, and two and one-half ounces to depress a linotype, we see that in writing these hyphens a total of 352,974 foot-pounds of energy is expended, or enough to draw a passenger train across the United States.

To avoid appearing picayunish, no mention has been made of the waste of ink and paper, but this would approximate in value the daily bread supply of the State of New York.

Undoubtedly the tendency to-day is to shorten things. This is because, generally speaking, two days' work is being accomplished in what formerly constituted one day. The hyphens in "to-day," "to-night," and "to-morrow" should be discontinued today.

### SPRING ARITHMETIC.

It was the busy hour of 4,  
When from a city hardware store  
Emerged a gentleman who bore  
1 hoe,  
1 spade,  
1 wheelbarrow.

From thence our hero promptly went  
Into a seed establishment  
And for these things his money spent:  
1 peck of bulbs,  
1 job lot of shrubs,  
1 quart of assorted seeds.

He has a garden under way  
And if he's fairly lucky, say,  
He'll have about the last of May  
1 squash vine,  
1 egg plant,  
1 radish.

—Washington Herald.

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vescent **Salt**

ALL DRUGGISTS

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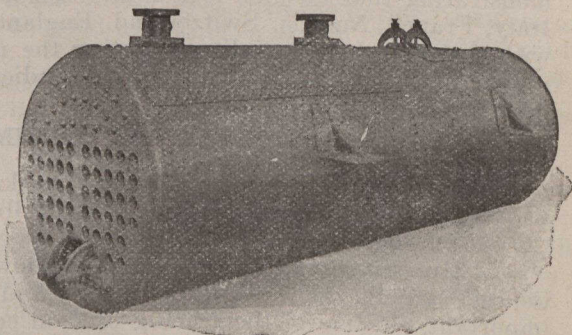
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**6-2-0-1**

Our Phone Number

# *Picturesque Styles In Spring Millinery*

The influence of mannish styles which is apparent in all forms of women's raiment this season can be readily observed in the Millinery also. The large hats are said to have been inspired from the paintings in the Louvre, and portray the work of the Old Italian masters. The smaller types seem to have a sentimental, a romantic and a legendary flavor attaching to them, for they remind one of William Tell, Robin Hood, the Picturesque Venetian Gondolier, and other personages more or less familiar through song or story. The jockey cap, the fireman's helmet, the chimney pot or Billy cock hat, the Billy Burke Bonnet, are all to be noted demonstrating that Fashion is a most cosmopolitan lady, invading Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland, England, Ireland and America with the utmost impartiality, adopting the masculine garb and applying it to her own needs to provide radically new styles for feminine wearers.

### COLORS AND TRIMMINGS.

In the matter of colors, there is a marked appearance of Black and White, used in combination; Dutch Blue, Huzzar Blue and Cornflower Blue, Coral Turquoise, and, of course, Coronation Red.

Where trimmings are concerned, Willow Plumes, Aigrettes and Ospreys are the most striking factors, and flowers are especially important, clusters of them being used in conjunction with the ostrich feathers, or entire toques may be evolved from them. Laces have come into their own again, and there are lace flowers, metal ornaments in lacey patterns, and Irish Crochet laces made up of fine Mohair that are wonderfully plastic and serviceable for Millinery purposes.

But when all's been said, somehow there's but little told, and one glance will reveal more than pages of description, so come for that glance.

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## MURPHY-GAMBLE, Limited

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## At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

### A Tale of Table Talk.

When Block entered his house the other evening he wore the smile of benevolence midway on his face. He had that day insured his life under the Civil Service Insurance Act for two thousand dollars and, in his simplicity, looked on this as an act of consideration for his wife as great as if he had bought her a box of Saturday chocolates. So he smiled the smile of benevolence.

"Well, my dear," he remarked as he took his seat at the table, "I have done it at last. I know you will be pleased."

"Done what?" asked his wife, who always said she was no good at riddles.

"I have put two thousand dollars insurance on my life," replied Block, and spread his moustache back in anticipation of the kiss of gratitude which does so beautifully match the smile of benevolence.

But Mrs. Block was in no mood for extravagant expressions of gratitude. She had missed winning the bridge trophy by two points at Mrs. Snooks' house that afternoon.

"Two thousand dollars on *your* life, Tom Block!" she exclaimed. "Isn't that just like men all over? Thinking of themselves, always thinking of themselves!"

"But, my dear, I was not thinking of myself at all. I was thinking of you."

"Thinking of me, indeed!" retorted Mrs. Block. "Now, don't try to smooth over your selfish actions with nice words. If you had been thinking of me you would have put

the money on *my* life. So, there."

"You don't understand," began Mr. Block by way of explanation.

"I do understand," interrupted his wife. "You think of yourself first, last and all the time. Is not my life as valuable as yours? Am I not worth insuring? You have twelve hundred dollars insurance on your furniture. Now you put two thousand dollars on your life. But not one cent on me! If that is the estimate you place on your wife's existence it is high time that I went back to my father's home where I am appreciated. Not a word. I see it all. I am of less value in your eyes than the parlor furniture or the kitchen range. You would trade me off to-morrow, I believe, for a gas stove. Are you not ashamed of yourself, Tom Block?"

"Just listen for a moment," said Block. "I insure the furniture because it is our property and the sudden loss of it would put us to inconvenience. Now, my life is your property. I hold it in trust for you, dear."

"O, none of your Mothers' Meeting talk, please," broke in Mrs. Block. "I am tired and sick of hearing Mrs. Towkins rant about holding her life in trust for her dear children. You and she would make a good team to go on a lecture tour. She wears just dowdy enough clothes to be a lecturer."

"Please listen to me," her husband exclaimed. "I am the breadwinner. If I were to die to-night you would have just the furniture, the three hundred dollars now in the bank and my insurance money. I

am willing to forego the spending of some of my salary now that you may have it when I am dead. Mortality tables show that women live longer than men. In view—"

"You are fine on your explanations," said Mrs. Block, interrupting him. "But you can't deceive me, not a little bit. You die before me! Haven't I been complaining of pains in my head for the last month and been planning a trip to the coast for my health as soon as I can get some clothes ready? I think sometimes, as I am being fitted by the dressmaker, that I am ordering a shroud. You know that I am doomed to an early grave. And now, I would ask, for what woman are you holding your life in trust? It can't be that fright of a Mrs. Tomkins, and yet you *are* suited to each other."

"It is because you are not feeling well that I am anxious," Mr. Block explained. "If you were left without strength and without means, what would you do? Life insurance casts a halo of glory about the vacant chair. I read that on a calendar only yesterday."

"And what halo would be cast about my vacant chair?" inquired Mrs. Block with much spirit.

"Riches and poverty will be the same to me when your chair is vacant, my dear," replied her husband.

"Fine words, again!" said Mrs. Block. "But not so fine either. You will place yourself, when I am gone, on your Mothers' Meeting pedestal as a monumental sorrow with a look of holy resignation on your face. I can see you now, worshipped by Mrs. Tompkins and all such. But I, who have devoted my life to you for ten years, am to have no grief at all when you go. I suppose you will object in your will to me wearing black, and black is so becoming to me, too. I am a hard-hearted, mercenary monster who will rip up the linings of vacant chairs to find the bank-notes you have

stored away! You add insult to injury, sir."

"I was not discounting your love," began Mr. Block.

"Discounting!" his wife ironically interjected. "You have no words but the words of the market in which to express your affection. But what can one expect from a man who gets his epigrams from a calendar alongside the wooden face of a full moon?"

"Come, dear, and let us look at this matter sensibly," urged Mr. Block. "I value you above everything else, but I can't regard you as a source of revenue."

"Oh, of course not," from Mrs. Block.

"But you must regard me, not only as a husband, but as a provider," went on Mr. Block. "As such I am a rateable piece of property, and that property I am now insuring against destruction."

"Well, if that be so," Mrs. Block broke in, "why should *you* insure this 'fine suburban estate offered at a sacrifice'? By your own words, it is I who have the interest in 'this desirable property' known as Thomas Block, and I should fix the value and see to its protection."

"You are the ultimate consumer, I will admit, but I am the trustee. That is why I take the precautions."

"And you value yourself at two thousand dollars?" Mrs. Block asked tauntingly. "And I am to wait how many years before I can get the cash for my holdings?"

"I can't tell the exact number," said Block, "for the mortality tables are based on the lives of men in the average."

"Well that should do for you," came Mrs. Block's retort. "for I can't consider you after this as more than an average man. What fool trick will you be up to next? Bringing me home one of those Government annuities when I am needing a new new hat?"

"I *was* thinking of that, my



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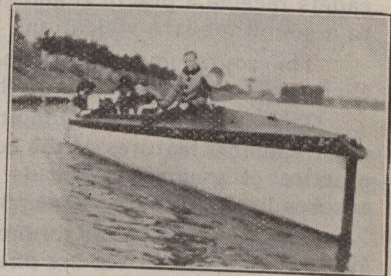
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## The Royal Military College of Canada

**T**HERE are few national institutions of more value and interest to the country than the Royal Military College of Canada. Notwithstanding this, its object and the work it is accomplishing are not sufficiently understood by the general public.

The College is a Government institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organised on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissions in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation, is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Dominion Land Surveyor to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same exemptions as a B.A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of 9½ months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

dear," replied Block, "and I have some figures here. Now, you will be thirty-six your next birthday."

"You mean I was thirty-five my last birthday. You are always looking on the worst side of things."

"Well, thirty-five your last birthday. If I were to pay in seventy-three cents a week until you are sixty-five——"

But poor Block said no more on that head. His wife arose in her night.

"You have gone far enough, sir," she thundered. "You have sat here this evening and talked coldly of my widowhood and my death and now you speak of me as being an old woman. You would no doubt conclude, if I let you, with some quotation from Mother Siegel's Almanac about the glory of gray hairs. To-morrow you will be bringing me a white woollen shawl and an invalid's chair. Brute!" And she left him.

Like the wise man he was at times, Block went into the hallway and telephoned to the theatre for two seats in the orchestra row.

### **"GOVERNMENT JOBS."**

Judson C. Welliver, in an article in Munsey's Magazine, says there are two hundred thousand people serving the United States Government for salaries ranging from twenty dollars a month upward, who, if they worked for almost any other employer, would be on strike, and that the strikers would win. The writer combats with energy the prevalent notion that civil service employees are underworked and overfed, and are holding "political snaps."

The notion, he says, grew up in the earlier years of the Republic, when living was comparatively cheap, and wages and salaries in other occupations comparatively low. "The cost of living has greatly increased in recent years, and, at the same time, the growth of huge

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corporations, railways, industrial, and commercial concerns, has given rise to salaries far in excess of those paid in the civil service."

The Toronto Star thinks that to a certain extent we have had a similar experience in Canada. It adds:

"In spite of its disadvantages 'a Government job' does possess a fascination for a good many people. There is an idea that it is more secure and comfortable than employment in a privately-owned concern. And this inducement may be especially strong in the United States, where business life is extremely strenuous, and where there is a certain ruthlessness in dispensing with employees who do not keep up in the race.

"For this reason a Government is in a position to obtain efficient service at salaries considerably lower than those paid by private employers. But this advantage ought not to be abused, and a plea such as that put forward by Mr. Welliver ought to have a fair hearing."

## The Woman in the Service

By "Frea Cannaiad."

### Civil Service Axioms.

With a view to ascertaining what thoughts were uppermost in the minds of readers, an effort was made to learn some of the things which have become apparent as we go about our daily work. The result was that the following list of axiomatic observations have come to hand:

If there be one hundred women in one room and ninety-nine are industrious and one is idle, then must the ninety-nine become more industrious lest the idleness of the one be known?

If there be one hundred women in one room and ninety-eight are silent and two are talkative, then must the ninety-eight become permanently silent and the two who are talkative may not speak for half a day?

If there be one hundred women in one room and ninety-seven are punctual and three are tardy, to wit: if ninety-seven sign at 9.15 and if three sign at 9.30; then must the ninety-seven sign at 9 a.m., and if anyone escape and sign at 9.15, it will be one of the tardy?

If there be two people in one room, and if during one day the telephone be used one hundred times, by the one ninety-nine times, by the other once, then will the privilege be withdrawn and the one may not use it ninety-nine times nor the other once?

From all of which the general deduction is made:

If there be any number of women in one room, and they be divided into two parties, namely, the major-

ity and the minority, and if it should be necessary to have recourse to the extreme rigor of the law, then will it be seen that the sins of the minority will be visited upon the majority, even to everyone, and if any one escape it will be found to be one who belongs to the minority.

Therefore,

If there be any number of women in one room, divided into two parties, namely, the majority and the minority, then must the majority maintain a great reverence and awe of the minority, that by so doing they may promote the greatest measure of freedom in the land.

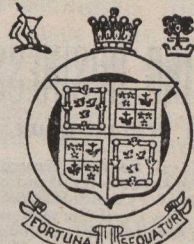
It is indeed gratifying to know that the attention of the House of Commons was called to the insanitary condition of the buildings in which are located the government offices. It is to be hoped that notice will be taken of the suggestion that a sanitary engineer be appointed to take charge of the sanitary condition of the buildings.

If there has been one lesson which Ottawa is learning from the typhoid epidemic, it is the city's duty of conserving the health of its people. It can only be regretted that its education had to be received in this way. How many more of the lesser ills from which people suffer could be avoided by a system of prevention, it would be enlightening to know. Impure air and lack of ventilation are often all that is necessary to render life a constant struggle with ill-health, if the authority of medical men is of any value. But, judging from our manner of living, we place little confidence in the



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on the Civil Service Examination for May proves the superiority of our courses. With one exception every candidate received an appointment in the Civil Service within four days after the results were published (June 18). One of our candidates in the Shorthand Division went right from our school without a single day's experience and headed the list of those who wrote from Ottawa and took third place in the Dominion. Another without a single day's office experience took the highest mark in Typewriting (99%) and still another caught fourth place in Subdivision B, 3rd Division. A most remarkable showing for inexperienced candidates, and is the best evidence of the High Grade teaching at Gowling's School.

Civil Service class opens August 1st. For particulars apply to

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S. S. NEHRU, Cambridge University, England.

Question I—Why should a student in India send all the way to Canada for a course in Latin?  
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opinion of those who ought to know something about it.

The women of the service are always hearing the criticism that they are often away from their work on sick leave. Perhaps if they were not forced to spend their days in overheated offices where the air is always impure, the criticism could be withdrawn, and the intensity of the struggle for life would be greatly lessened.

In the meantime, much could be accomplished if those who are in offices would avail themselves of the means of prevention already within reach.

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### CONDITIONS IN THE U. S. CIVIL SERVICE — REPORT OF THE C. S. COMMISSIONERS.

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The United States Civil Service Commission's twenty-seventh annual report, made public last week in Washington, states that the increasing effectiveness of the merit system has strengthened the public conviction that it is indispensable to economy and efficiency in governmental affairs. Some extracts from the Commission's general findings may interest the Canadian service.

A better spirit of co-operation on the part of administrative officers and the public is noted, thus rendering civil service administration more effective.

The report shows 384,088 persons in the executive civil service, 222,278 of whom are in the competitive classified service.

Including transfers, promotions, and re-instatements, there were, according to the report, 43,585 persons appointed through examination in the Federal service during the year, while transfers and re-instatements without examination to the Federal service and appointments through examination to the Philippine service and to unskilled positions bring the number up to 46,202.

It is shown that the large number of clerks in Washington required for the recent census were supplied through the examination system.

The recent classification by executive order of assistant postmasters and of clerks in certain first-class post offices is noted with satisfaction, it being shown that other like positions have been advantageously treated as classified.

The report calls attention to the pronounced tendency to fill the higher federal positions through promotion of persons in the service, and further shows remarkable progress in the general application of the merit system and the acceptance of this method of selection of the personnel of government organizations which has been adopted by more than two hundred cities and six State governments.

The commission joins with the President and the Postmaster General in recommending legislation to permit the classification of first, second, and third class postmasters and supports earnestly the President's recommendation to Congress that he be given power to classify local officers except those responsible for the policy of the administration.

The commission urges legislation looking to increased efficiency in the service, especially a reclassification of salaries in accordance with the work performed, with enough grades to insure frequent promotions, some provision for retirement, and promotion on merit to the higher positions.

In its argument for a reclassification of salaries the commission states that the present classification was adopted in 1853 under different conditions and shows the inequalities resulting at the present time. After such a reclassification the commission favors promotions in the service on the basis of efficiency-records kept and harmonized by a supervisory body.

Satisfaction is expressed with the results of the application of the

merit system to the diplomatic and consular services by Presidential order.

The portion of the report dealing with political activity of employees shows an increase in the number of cases investigated by the commission, most of them of a minor character, which it ascribes to increased facilities for detecting violations, fuller co-operation of the departments, and greater public sympathy, rather than a growth in the actual number. It recommends the extension of the restriction on political activity to officers now unclassified.

### PETITION OF CANADIAN POSTMASTERS' ASSOCIATION.

— 6,000 MEMBERS.

The Canadian Postmasters' Association held a very successful gathering at Ottawa during the past fortnight, when the following petition was presented to the government:

1. An increase in salary to meet the sharp advance in the cost of living.

2. An increase in the rent allowance, and the placing of it on the straight percentage basis.

3. Necessary supplies, such as twine, ink, pens, pencils, &c., to be furnished by the department.

4. The postmaster to be given greater protection in the purchase of good equipment for offices.

5. That offices be classified, and a system of promotion (optional for a time) be established, with a view to promoting greater efficiency and permanency.

6. Better newspaper labelling, with a view to greater despatch and accuracy.

7. Full recognition of the association by the government, that postmasters may establish a system of post relief and make suggestions from time to time.

8. That a copy of the Postmas-

ter General's report be sent to each accounting office.

9. That where safes are advisable, they be furnished by the department.

10. Throwing the civil service insurance open to postmasters.

11. A more adequate night service.

### STEEL MAIL CARS.

Canada might do worse than follow the decision of Congress to improve the conditions under which mail clerks pursue their somewhat hazardous calling. The House of Representatives has decided that by July 1, 1916, all wooden mail cars must be retired from service, and steel cars substituted for them. The steel cars are incomparably safer. They will not only guarantee the safety of the mails themselves, but of the men who have charge of the mails. Nearly every railway wreck demonstrates the superior safety of the heavier type of cars, and many of these catastrophes also impress upon the public the dangers which are run by the civil servants in the mail cars.

Because it is a high revenue producer, the Pullman car is now so strongly constructed that danger of injury among Pullman passengers is materially smaller than in the day coach. But the time will come when the public will insist upon the maximum safety for day coach passengers also. Certainly the postal clerk should be guaranteed more ample protection than at present. In a flimsily built car, between the heavy engine and the heavy Pullmans, he is the readiest victim when collisions occur.

—The Toronto Star.

Eddie Phillips, the popular oarsman and footballer, is down with typhoid fever. His many friends throughout the service are "pulling hard" for his recovery in time for Henley week.



## Will You Join Us ?

**T**HE *Civilian* is conducted by civil servants in the interests of the entire civil service. Its management is not a close corporation, but a flexible organization which invites and welcomes to a share in the control of the paper any civil servant who can add to its value and success. The paper's financial status is now assured: the extent of the success it can achieve will depend on the men it can enlist. The management is on the principle that those who make it should all share equitably in any profits. Can you on this basis help the *Civilian* in any way, whether from the editorial or business standpoint? If so we suggest that you get into touch with us.

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SCOTCH  
"Mountain Dew"  
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(LONDON)

## India Pale Ale

Prejudiced and unscrupulous vendors may suggest others, but compare it any way you will—purity, freedom from acidity, palatable—Labatt's Ale is surpassed by none, equalled by few—at about half the price of best imported brands.

Please Patronize Our Advertisers.

## The Canadian Courier's Post Card Campaign.

The Canadian Courier remarks à propos of the cartoon below:—  
 "Our post-card campaign for the extension of Civil Service Reform to the 'Outside Service' is progressing favourably. Six hundred post-cards have been received. Two thousand are desired. Have you sent one?"



The Rising Tide of Post Cards.

Sir Wilfrid—"You needn't laugh, Sir James, your turn is coming."

### THE THIRD DIVISION QUESTION.

Discussion continues very active on the situation of the Third Division under the amended C. S. Regulations. Up to the time of going to press the exact nature of the action to be taken by the Association had not been decided upon, though several meetings of the Executive have been held. The circulation of a petition and the holding of a general meeting are possibilities. Either or both should receive the support of every member of the Association.

## Oh Look! the Funny Man Again!

The Canadian Courier has a funny man on its staff whose duty is to be sprightly once a week. He signs himself "The Monocle Man," and lives up to it. It is a strain sometimes, and last week when he turned the monocle upon the civil service (from the distance of Toronto) the effort was pretty violent. However, on the whole, he acquitted himself fairly well, though to be perfectly frank we *have* seen better. The following are excerpts:

"A group of common-sense French members of the House of Commons desired to be told why civil servants should not be compelled to pay their debts like other people. Sir Alan Aylesworth undertook to tell them. He said that the only effect of garnisheeing a man's salary is to harass him in his daily business and prevent him from discharging his duties properly. Sir Alan overlooked another effect or two, as, for instance, the fact that this system keeps the tradesman who has trusted the Government employee from being swindled, and possibly makes the Government employee less reckless in running into debt. . . .

"I do not understand why Sir Alan Aylesworth thinks that the majority of ordinary men belong to the class who run wilfully and light-heartedly into debt; but that the majority of the civil servants would never think of incurring debt if they could help it, only stumbling into it through dire misfortune. . . . If I had been asked, I am afraid that I would have imagined that the gay civil service was more prone to paying little attention to the plaints of "mere tradesmen" than the common or garden wage-earner; and that, if the garnishee should be held as a threat over one class only, that class should be precisely the individuals whom Sir Alan desires to spare.

"Sir Alan said that it would inter-

fere with the usefulness of the civil servant to have his salary seized; and that, therefore, it was not in the interest of the State to allow it. It gets better work than the common employer can from his men — at least, that is the theory — but makes the merchants of the country pay through the nose that it may enjoy this advantage. For a Minister of "Justice" to defend such an arrangement sounds like a satire. However, it may have been a joke. The Minister did give vent to one humorous sally that ought to have brought down the House, being full of men who know how civil servants get appointed. He said that the civil servant, unlike his fellow employed by a private employer, was not permitted to strike for higher wages. Did you get that? What a deprivation that must be! Sir Alan — who must know the office-seeker — can hardly have failed to enjoy his own 'bon mot.' Strike? They did all their striking to get in; and you couldn't pry most of them away from their jobs with a crowbar.

"If the garnishee is to be applicable to anybody, it certainly should be available as against the haughty aristocracy of the civil service. There it will not frighten the workers, but will teach modesty to the snobs."

**DOMINION  
BRIDGE CO,  
LTD. Montreal.**

**BRIDGES  
& Structural  
Metal Work  
for Buildings  
Beams, Ang-  
les, Plates,  
etc. in stock**

— P. Q. —

## SHAKESPEARE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

Sundays—

Ah, marry, now my soul has elbow-room.

King John.

Confidential Quarterly Reports—

The evil that men do lives after them.

Julius Cæsar.

Whisky Duty—

For what advancement may I hope from thee

That no revenue hast but thy good spirits.

Hamlet.

Expenses—

But in the way of Bargain, mark ye me!  
I'll cavel on the ninth part of a hair.

King Henry IV.

The Third Division to the Commission—

What dost thou mean by shaking of Thy head.

King John.

The Statutory Increase—

Large gifts have I bestowed on learned Clerks.

King Henry VI.

Our Job—

If I do lose thee I do lose a thing  
That none but fools would keep.

Measure for Measure.

The Service—

O, she is fallen  
Into a pit of ink.

Much Ado About Nothing.

Our Lot—

To grunt and sweat under a weary life.

Hamlet.

Our Demand—

Shylock we would have monies.

Merchant of Venice.

Our Thanks—

When like the bee toiling from every  
flower

We bring it to the hive, and like the  
bees

Are murder'd for our pains.

King Henry IV.

Our Salary—

Who steals my purse, steals trash.

Othello.

Our Prospects—

Oh, who can hold a *fiveer* in his hand  
By thinking on the frosty Treasury  
cuss.

King Richard II.

Our Last Resource—

O my prophetic soul! My *uncle!*

Hamlet.

Our Attitude—

She sat like patience on a monument  
Smiling at grief.

Twelfth Night.

Third Division—

Look here upon this picture and on this.

Hamlet.

Federation to Some—

You owe me no subscription.

King Lear.

For the Loan Association—

Neither a borrower nor a lender be.

Hamlet.

The Movement—

Our doubts are traitors,

And make us lose the good we oft might  
win

By fearing to attempt.

Love's Labour Lost.

## L'A.B.C. DU THEATRE.

Des personnes se sont plaintes de la longueur des pièces modernes. Comme modèle de pièce courte, nous croyons que nous ne pourrions mieux les servir qu'en leur mettant sous les yeux *Ijika*, tragédie alphabétique:

Elle n'a qu'un acte; la scène est à Alger. Les personnages se nomment: *Pecu*, bey d'Alger; *Hehaïff*, son confident; *Eno*, prince; *Ijika*, princesse; cinq gardes — rôles muets — complètent la figuration.

Au lever du rideau, le prince *Eno* surprend le bey *Pecu* aux pieds de la princesse, et d'un ton impérieux commande: "Ah! bey, cédez!" Le bey appelle à l'aide son confident: "Héhaïff!" le prince montre qu'il est armé: "J'ai hache!" dit-il. Sur quoi *Pecu* s'enfuit laissant seuls les jeunes gens. "Ijika" murmure tendrement le prince, et la princesse soupire avec langueur: "Elle aime *Eno*." Mais le bey n'est pas allé loin. Caché derrière une tenture, il assiste, frémissant de jalousie, à l'entretien des amoureux. Le prince l'aperçoit: "*Pecu* est resté!" s'écrie-t-il, et, saisi de fureur, il appelle ses gardes: "Hu! Vey! Hix! Ygrec! Zède!" qui jettent par la fenêtre le rival obsédant.

Et voilà. — C'est peut-être, en somme, le théâtre de demain.—Paris-Théâtre.

When stock was taken in the stationery department at Ottawa, the other day it was found that the old management had gone long on corkscrews. There were fifteen thousand, by actual count. This averages about seventy-five corkscrews for each and every member of Parliament, whereas the busiest man among them hasn't work for more than one. "What on earth," Colonel Sam Hughes was asked, "did they want so many corkscrews for?" "I don't know," replied the Colonel, "unless it was to draw answers out of the Government at question time."—Collier's.