

**PAGES**

**MISSING**

# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. IV.

DECEMBER 15, 1911

No. 17

## THE DAY OF LOVE.

Garret O'Connor in "Toronto  
Globe"

No matter what your lot this Christ-  
mas day,

Suffering, lonesome, sad of heart or  
gay,

Do something to make other mortals  
glad,

Nor pause to question: "be they  
good or bad?"

Give, O give! a hand clasp, smile to  
cheer—

Something to show the day of love  
is here.

Forget yourself: There's much for  
you to do;

When the day's over you will mur-  
mur: "True."

No purse or heart too poor to give  
today—

A beggar's smile can make the gloom  
less grey.

Seek for the needy, then give, give,  
give:

You'll find there's more than self for  
which to live.

## DISMISSALS.

The House of Commons has had a long discussion of the question of dismissals from the public service. On a resolution calling for papers many members of the Opposition brought forward charges that the new government was taking spoils by dismissing postmasters and others without good reason and appointing its own partizans to the places thus made vacant. The Prime Minister himself, Hon. R. L. Borden, declared the policy of the government in this matter. In the course of his address he said:

"I would like to point out to my hon. friend what he seems to have forgotten that with respect to both the inside service and the outside service this matter has been settled. In the first place by a statute of Canada concerning the inside service, in the second place by a resolution of this House, concurred in by both political parties with regard to the outside service. So far as the inside service is concerned, the statutory provision to which I desire to call attention is to be found in the Act of 1908 introduced and passed by the late administration. Section 43 of that statute is as follows:

"No officer, clerk or employee in the Civil Service shall be debarred from voting at any Dominion or provincial election if under the laws governing the said election he has the right to vote; but no such officer, clerk or employee shall engage in partisan work in connection with said election."

"The words of that section do not seem to restrict it to the inside service. My impression of the interpretation of the Act is that the language is restricted to the inside service. However, that is a matter to which we can very easily determine upon an examination of the earlier part of the statute. Sufficient it is to say for the present that it does lay down a definite and specific

rule so far as the inside service is concerned.

"Now, so far as the outside service is concerned, the rule was embodied in a resolution of the House of Commons moved by Mr. Lake on the 17th July, 1905, and accepted by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who was then leading the government, and that rule in these words:

"That whilst it is desirable that every official in the employ of the government of Canada, should enjoy perfect freedom of political opinion, and the untrammelled exercise of his franchise in accord therewith, no official should be engaged, or permitted to engage, in partisan work of any description in the election of a representative to the provincial or Dominion legislature."

Referring to "patronage committees", and the charge that these local groups of politicians were dictating dismissals and appointments, the Prime Minister said:

"No committee, since this government came into power, has had any authority to dismiss any official, and officials, whether in the inside or the outside service, can only be dismissed by this government or by the minister responsible for the administration of the department. If any such incidents as those alluded to have really taken place, they have taken place without the knowledge, the sanction, or the approval of this government.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, in part:

"I lay down the rule that a man who has taken an offensive part in politics is a proper subject for dismissal; but I should like hon. gentlemen opposite to say whether this man should be dismissed without being given the opportunity of being heard. I say that he should not, and I do not understand that such a rule is contradicted by hon. gentlemen opposite. In 1896 we laid down the rule that every man should

have an opportunity of defending himself.

"Mr. Monk. But you did not observe it.

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I beg my hon. friend's pardon. We said in 1896 that no man should be dismissed unless he was first given the opportunity of being heard."

Hon George E. Foster, dealing with this point, said:

"I agree with my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that a civil servant becomes an offensive partisan when he becomes an active worker or an active talker in the strife between the parties. The whole point seems to me to be what evidence is sufficient to convict a man of having taken that offensive part. One kind of evidence may be necessary in one case and another kind of evidence in another case; the point is not so much how the evidence is to be obtained as the quality and sufficiency of the evidence itself. Sometimes you may require an examination in order to find out. There are other cases, as that cited by my hon. friend by my side, when it does not require that, but when a minister of the Crown or a member of parliament knows of his own knowledge of the case and takes the responsibility for it. I think that goes far enough and there is no necessity to go beyond that and hold an expensive or tedious or litigious investigation. I think the common sense of the House and of the country would support an opinion of that kind."

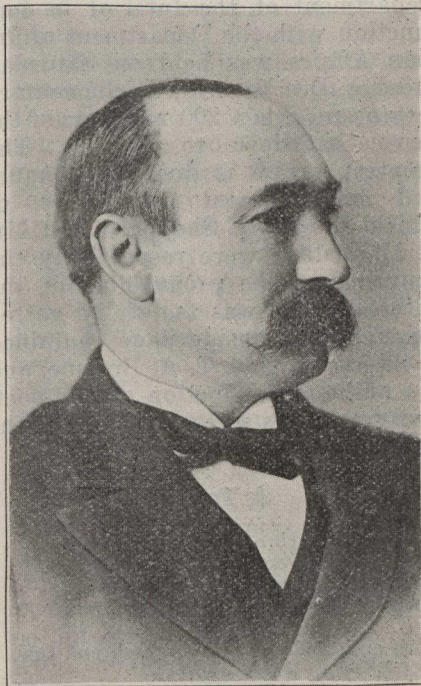
#### Extension of Civil Service Act.

Concerning the Outside Service the Prime Minister said:

"For my part, I hope the day may come, and in the not distant future, when the Civil Service Act may be extended to a portion at least of the Outside Service, and I hope eventually, as fast as it can be reasonably done, to the whole of the Outside Service.

#### OUR OUTSIDE SERVICE PORTRAITS.

Mr. David Creighton, Assistant Receiver General, at Toronto, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1843 and came to Canada with his parents in 1855. His early life was spent in journalism. For many years he edited the Owen Sound "Times." In



MR. DAVID CREIGHTON.

1887 he was commissioned by Sir John A. Macdonald to promote an official organ in Toronto, and thus he founded the "Empire" which merged with the "Mail" in 1895.

Mr. Creighton had a long career in politics. From 1875 until 1890 he represented the constituency of North Grey in the Legislature of Ontario. In 1895 he was appointed to his present position, under the Department of Finance.

Mr. Creighton is an Anglican and in 1875 was married to Miss Jane K. Kramer.

The Toronto "Globe" always his

opponent politically, once said of Mr. Creighton, "A thoroughly upright man with a high sense of duty, and a great capacity for hard work."

### INTERIOR AND INDIAN AFFAIRS—ANNUAL BANQUET.

The third annual banquet of the Department of the Interior in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs was held on Saturday evening, Dec. 9, in the Parliamentary restaurant, when 200 members of the service sat down to dinner. The greatest praise is due the banquet and entertainment committees, of which Mr. N. B. Sheppard and Mr. C. H. Beddoe were respectively the convenors. The programme of the entertainment was tastefully gotten up. The first inside page contained five verses by Mr. T. A. Browne, and the off hand production of our poet-civil-servant is so creditable that the lines are here reproduced:—

#### A Toast.

To every branch of this great tree,  
That shelters you and shelters me,  
Let's quaff a toast, and with a song,  
Drink to the King—may he live long.

With quip and jest, with speech and tale,  
In fellowship let us regale.  
Here's to our chief! here's to each soul!  
Toast with a will, fill high the bowl!

To comrades present, absent friends,  
Drink while the curling smoke ascends;  
And then one crowning toast we'll raise  
To woman and her gentle ways.

Oh! lovely ladies, you who wait  
For tardy husbands homing late;  
I crave you, by your fair renown,  
Forgive all these who here sit down.

So ends the feast, and if I heard  
The twitter of the morning bird,  
What matter, we have known good cheer—  
Goodbye, old friends, until next year.

Mr. J. A. Côté was the chairman and, Hon. David Laird the vice-chairman. The absence of the Minister Hon. Robert Rogers, who was

unavoidably prevented from attending was much regretted.

The toasts were, the King, Our Minister, Department of Interior, Department of Indian Affairs, Civil Service Association and the Ladies. Indian Affairs, Civil Service Association and the Ladies

The speeches elicited in reply to these toasts were instructive, edifying and amusing. Most of the speakers introduced comparative statistics showing the growth of the department since its inception in 1873. Dr. King gave a brief resumé of the scientific work of the Astronomical Observatory branch and Mr. Fitzroy Dixon an account of the work done by the Dominion Lands branch. Mr. J. S. Eagleson in following, remarked that the two previous speakers had dealt with the heavens above and the earth beneath and there was only one place left for him to talk about. He made a brilliant after dinner speech, crammed with wit and bubbling over with good humor. Mr. Pedley spoke of the responsibility of the dominant race in regard to the Indians and the part his department takes in safe-guarding their interests. Mr. Higman replied on behalf of the C. S. Association making his speech all too short on account of the late hour. Mr. Harkin wittily replied for the ladies. Space does not permit an extended account of the items of entertainment interspersed among the speeches. From "Rule Britannia" the opening song of Mr. Geo. H. D. Gibson to "God Save the King," the contributions were excellent, and in conjunction with the speeches made up an evening conducive to warmer friendships and an inspiration to still more loyal service to the department, to Canada and the Empire.

The forester of British East Africa estimates the Government timber area at 2,000,000 acres.

### THE PASSING OF THE CATACOMBS.

It is some years ago since a representative of *The Civilian* first visited the subterraneous passages of the Langevin Block where a number of the precious souls whose names appear on the civil service list have for years been cribbed, cabined and confined. That the names of the heroic spirits, who have braved death and disaster to carry on the business of the country in the bilge-odorous atmosphere of the Langevin basement, appear in the list in small type only, is one more proof of the doctrine that many men get justice only from posterity.

*The Civilian* wrote up the condition of affairs as it appeared to its representative, the Sanitation Committee of the association reported the matter regularly and the filthy conditions were referred to in the House of Commons. The members of the Postal Stores branch, finding no results from these representations, recently presented their case to the Postmaster General himself and asked for a personal investigation. On Tuesday last the Hon. Mr. Pelletier visited the catacombs in solemn state. The result is not yet known except that the minister was overheard to remark, as he reached the mainfloor in safety. "I wonder how human beings have been able to live in such conditions." It is to be hoped that the minister will allow no time to elapse until he removes this blot from civil service life in Ottawa. An increase in salary of \$100 and a Victoria Cross would be a small compensation to the men who have patiently endured the terrors of this death trap for many years.

### THE CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLY ASSOCIATION.

The report of this Civil Service Society for the first six months of its existence is to issue this week

and contains some interesting information both for those who have given it encouragement by buying their supplies from it and those who contemplate doing so. The full report is crowded out of this issue. The business has come out about even during the first six months.

The directors state in their report that in view of the difficulties incident to the organization of a new business the showing is very satisfactory. The accounts for October and November business show that the store is now more than paying expenses while the six months record indicates the requirements for continued success and future prosperity as shown by the following deductions:—

The average gross profit on sales for the six months is shown to have been 17.23 per cent., a rate which is very low and will undoubtedly be increased. Placing the average current expense rate at \$550 per month, a very liberal estimate, it will be seen that in order to earn a dividend of 8% on total gross sales, an average daily business of \$328 is required. The daily average of sales for November was \$168, so that it is necessary to almost double the sales to put co-operation on a sound basis. This should easily be accomplished if the service is true to its own. The motto of the society is—"The Store is yours, patronize it."

### PURE WATER.

Civil servants should help to swell the audience of Dr. Sharkey, Professor of Hygiene of McGill University, who will lecture in the Russell Theatre on Friday evening, Dec. 21 on water purification. An interesting series of lantern slides is promised. H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught will be present, and the Mayor will occupy a box. Mr. Borden has kindly consented to move the vote of thanks, which will be seconded by Senator Belcourt.

# THE CIVILIAN

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

Ottawa, Dec 15, 1911

## OTTAWA CIVIL SERVANTS AND OTTAWA CIVIC PROBLEMS.

Too many civil servants lack interest in municipal matters. They seem to forget that, as in most other matters, the salaried men and women are the ones who are hardest hit by high taxes. If we own property we are reached directly, if we do not, higher rents reach us with even ruder grasp, while not a little of the enhanced cost of living in Ottawa is due to the fact that trades people must raise their taxes from their customers. The imperfect administration of Ottawa's civic affairs is known to everyone; the remedy is not so evident. But what is plain is that it is the duty of every man and woman who has a vote to use it. The Civic Improvement League will tell the people why it thinks a clean sweep, should be made of the present City Council and the members of the Council will tell us why they should be re-elected; it is for all citizens to make up their minds and *vote*.

In addition to electing a good council the ratepayers will have two most important questions to vote on—the water supply and the Federal District question. Whether Ottawa should form part of a Federal District or not is certainly of more importance to Civil Servants than to any other class and no matter what each of us think about it we should express our opinion at the polls, and so with the water supply. Do we think our water should come from McGregor Lake and if so are we ready to have the city expend \$2,300,000 for that purpose?

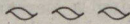
The main point is that, as a matter of plain duty to others—if his own obvious self-interest does not move him—the civil servant in Ottawa should record his opinion by voting in the coming election.

## DISMISSALS AND EXTENSION OF REFORM.

Elsewhere in this issue a brief summary is given of the statements in the House of Commons setting forth the position of the Government with relation to the dismissal of public officials.

Without expressing any opinion as to the rightness or wrongness of any or all acts of this kind by either the present or the previous government, *The Civilian* may reasonably congratulate the civil service and the country upon the decided improvement in practice, and in the public opinion by which practice is distated, as compared with the early days of the Dominion's history. Canada has improved with the rest of the world, and that improvement is bound to go on. The public business is too complex and too important to admit of wholesale changes in the personnel of the service. And, as Canada grows and her business calls more and more for specialists and people trained for that business, so must the spoils system and all idea of the spoils system fade away.

The Prime Minister, as shown by our quotation from the official report of his speech, expressed the hope that the government would be able to extend the Civil Service Act to one after another of the portions of the Outside Service. This is the true cure for the evils complained of. Complaint of offensive partizanship against members of the Inside Service is practically unknown. This is not because the men of the Inside Service are different from others but because their condition is different. Exclusion from partizan politics is one of the things which civil servants must accept. And the men of the Inside Service do accept it, just as they accept the other limitations of their calling, because the understanding is clear, the duty definite and the reward of obedience certain. In the Outside Service, and more particularly in that part of the service in which employment is only temporary or partial, there still remains a field in which people so little prove to agree as partizan politicians are may easily find ground of difference by reason of the less precise limitations of the subject considered. It may be that we shall always have some debateable territory of this kind. But, as a clear understanding has been reached and definite results attained for so large a part of the Service, we have every reason to hope, with both Prime Minister and Opposition, that the extension of the existing system will eliminate all question of spoils from more and more of the public business.



### FACTS WANTED.

A guileless, simple-minded person is our correspondent B. Grade. He wants the facts in the case of the promotions by the Commission which case was discussed in the last *Civilian*. It has been said that if a true understanding had been come to as to the meaning of words nine-

tenths of the controversy in the world would have been prevented. How much of that remaining one-tenth would have been headed off could the parties have come to agreement as to their facts? While Sir Walter Raleigh was a prisoner under royal displeasure, he occupied his time in writing a history of the world. One day some of his fellow-prisoners quarrelled and wounds resulted. Raleigh, as the greatest man within the walls, was appealed to by both parties each desiring his support for its cause. After a clamorous dispute which nearly resulted in another appeal to arms, Raleigh exclaimed, "Here am I, writing a summary of all the great wars of history, and yet I cannot learn the facts about a petty brawl that has taken place under my very window."

This letter of B. Grade was received too late for action this time. But, in view of this letter and of other representations proving a desire on the part of a considerable number for a further discussion of the matter, *The Civilian* will do what it can, in fulfilment of its duty to its readers, to make known in an early issue all the facts. The task is by no means an easy one, for facts cannot be stated, much less can they be arranged, without giving an impression of relative values. Nor can facts be even omitted as unimportant without running the risk of pre-judging the case. But *The Civilian* will do all in its power to state the facts accurately, completely and in their true relation.



### SUPERANNUATION.

The superannuation campaign is now in excellent going order. The time is long past when anything new in the way of generalities can be said on the subject. The whole service, from Atlantic to Pacific, is behind the movement. During the



past week the memorial on this topic has been carefully rewritten by a special committee of five and before the Christmas holiday has passed the executive of the Federation which is holding a special meeting for the purpose will have taken it up with Mr. White. The memorial has been already endorsed by the service inside and outside. It is safe to say that in no department of its activities has better work been done by the civil service organization. We have reason to know that the recent government is not in the position of one who needs any arguments in favor of the principle of superannuation. The government approves it, and the service is unanimous in seeking it with all the force at its command. If anyone is worrying to the contrary let him take heart of grace. Superannuation is coming.



### THE CIVILIAN.

To the civil servant with an idea—constructive or destructive—we repeat, *The Civilian* is your paper. If we fail to miss a point, to state a pertinent fact, or to press an argument, please regard it as your opportunity not primarily to hit *The Civilian* but to set the matter straight. Write down what you think and send it in. It will be given prominence if it is anything short of libel, for the prerequisite of progress is honest discussion. This paper literally belongs *pro tanto* to anyone who will join in the work of conducting it. It was to help to clarify and chrystalize the views of the service, and for that purpose alone, that *The Civilian* was founded. Please let us hear from our readers. As no Englishman is worthy of the name who has not at one time or other written a letter to the *Times*, so let no civil servant regard himself as full-fledged till he has aired his views on all and sundry questions in *The Civilian*.

### CIVIL SERVICE CLUB NOTES.

There was a meeting of members of the Club on Tuesday evening, Dec. 5th, for the purpose of ratifying certain amendments proposed by the committee to the Constitution. The meeting approved of the changes proposed.

\* \* \*

The following new members were elected since the last issue of *The Civilian*:

J. H. Digram, Interior; S. C. McLean, Mines; S. Maher, Interior; O. E. Leroy, Mines.

\* \* \*

On the evening of Nov. 30th the first of a series of Club dinners was held and a most enjoyable evening spent. About 20 members sat down to an excellent repast. After dinner those present engaged in bridge and billiards. It is proposed to hold these dinners monthly.

\* \* \*

The billiard and bridge tournaments are progressing well. Mr. C. H. Young of the Mines Dept., is leading in the billiards, having won 13 matches and lost but one. He has five more to play.

### TO PHILATELISTS.

A correspondent writes as follows from England:

I wonder while I am writing if you will mind me mentioning a personal matter. I am an enthusiastic philatelist and desire to increase my collection of Canadian stamps—used specimens. Are there any gentlemen you know who would be willing to exchange with me for other colonies, or sell me any they happen to come across; of course the older issues the better. I will send selection sheets with the greatest of pleasure. Officially used stamps are particularly useful.

*The Civilian* will be glad to forward replies to the above.

## The Capital of Canada—Its Future.

City About Whose Brow the North Winds Blow, Girdled with Woods  
and Shod with River Foam, Called by a Name as old as Troy or  
Rome, Be Great as They.—D. C. Scott.

The Canadian Club of Ottawa performed a service not only to Ottawa but to Canada (thereby living up in full to its name) on Saturday evening a fortnight ago when it announced a public lecture on "The ideal capital—How to plan it, and how to build it." The lecturer, Mr. Mawson of the University of Liverpool is perhaps the most distinguished of English experts on the subject of city-planning. It may be that Mr. Mawson did not furnish his audience with any cut-and-dried description of the model Ottawa that is to be. He suggested rather than stated. As he admitted, he came to criticise rather than construct. In fact he began by saying that it would require several months observation and reflection before he could venture a single recommendation. That alone was a salutary thought to leave in Ottawa. That and his insistence that city-planning is good business—that it pays, may be regarded as the two most important lessons he had to teach.

But the noteworthy thing about the meeting was not the lecture so much as the audience. It was large and it was thoroughly appreciative and sympathetic. It revealed not only the birth but the sturdy growth of Ottawa as a city among cities is no longer the concern of a voice here and there crying in the wilderness. There is in process of making on the subject, if it be not already made, that powerful thing known as public opinion. And it is an enlightened public opinion. And the question of all questions already is, what to do—what practical step to take to realize the splendid aspiration.

This is not a question for Ottawans alone. Ottawa is the capital of Canada, and must be built as

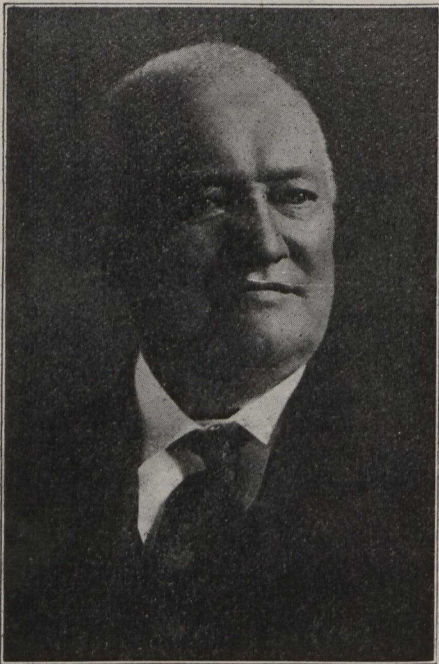
such. And therefore, speaking as the organ of the class which serves the whole people, *The Civilian* is not sorry that the commission idea, by the dexterity of the present municipal powers of darkness, was thrown away. What was cleverly devised for our bane may result for our good if it makes way for the larger and in the final event more efficient idea—the Federal District idea. For the Federal District idea alone meets the logic of the case, which is that Ottawa is first and last a capital city.

The notion has gone abroad that civil servants are opposed to the suggestion of a Federal District. This is surely erroneous. To no class should the proposal appeal with greater force, for no section of the citizenship of Ottawa has an equal opportunity of arriving automatically at the same point of view in the matter. The servants of all the people love the place of their habitation, and with all their hearts desire that it should be made a worthy tabernacle of a great idea—the idea of Canadianism.

Mr. Mawson placed beauty second to practical utility in city-planning, where of course it belongs. Nevertheless the largest single element in the present wave of feeling is the thought that the policy of leaving things to drift or to uneducated effort will ruin even Ottawa's unequalled beauties of location. When the Federal District has been erected the cultivation of Ottawa's natural heritage will go forward under auspices that are impossible today. We will not then see the mass and sympathy of the group of buildings on Parliament Hill laid careless hands on. We will not see Nepean Point made over into a birthday

cake and the escarpment effaced by a concrete wall. We will not see the Mint, the Archives building and the Printing Bureau vying as to which can turn the ugliest and most inharmoniously grouped back on one of the noblest of hill and river views. We will not see Beechwood approached through a slum (in the open country!) or our magnificent suburb sites turned over to the checker-board land surveyor and the accumulator of unearned increments. This is not by way of gibing at the Improvement Commission or at anyone else. It is with cities as with men and women—they must arrive at knowledge by making mistakes. The Philistine must have his day. Ottawa is lucky that the awakening has come so soon.

### FIFTY YEARS A CIVIL SERVANT



MR. E. E. TACHÉ.

Mr. E. E. Taché, I.S.O., deputy minister of Lands and Forests of

the Province of Quebec, has spent fifty years in the service of the public. On November 13th his fellow-employees of the Quebec government and many public men of the province joined in celebrating this remarkable anniversary, presenting him with an address and a handsome testimonial. Eloquent speeches were made by the Lieutenant Governor by the Premier, Sir Lomer Gouin, by Hon. Jules Allard and others, congratulating Mr. Taché upon his anniversary and wishing him continued health and prosperity.

Mr. Taché was born at St. Thomas de Montmagny, on the 25th of October, 1836. He is the eldest son of the late Honorable Sir Etienne P. Taché and Lady Sophie Morency Taché. He was educated at the Seminary of Quebec and at Upper Canada College, Toronto. He studied civil engineering and architecture in Toronto under E. P. Rubidge, assistant engineer of the department of Public Works.

In 1857-58, Mr. Taché served under Walter Shanly, C.E., on the Ottawa ship canal survey in the Nipissing, Mattawin, Allumette & Calumet divisions. In 1859 he was employed on the Grand Trunk Railway Longueil and Island Pond section, also on the River du Loup Branch. He entered the Department of Crown Lands on the 3rd of April, 1861, as surveyor and rose by degrees to his present position to which he was appointed in September, 1869. This position he has occupied up to the present.

He was first married, in 1859, to Olympe Eléonore Bender and secondly, in 1879, to Clara Juchereau Duchesnay, daughter of the late Honorable Antoine Juchereau Duchesnay, of Quebec. He was created a companion of the Imperial Service Order in May, 1903.

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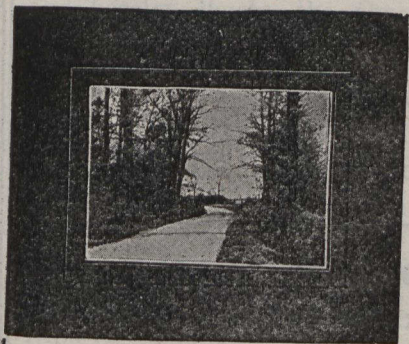
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## At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

### Concerning The Owl.

I have been engaged for some time in writing a book on "Birds of which I Know Nothing." The task has been an easy one so far. I have completed chapters on the Albatross, the Bittern, the Condor, and so on through the alphabet (J stands for Joggins) up to O. There I have stopped, for I have been in some doubt whether I should choose the Ousel or the Owl as my next subject. Most people would choose the former, but I am not most people. My ignorance of the Ousel is common to all folks not preparing for civil service examinations. Almost anybody could write about the Ousel. But my ignorance of the Owl is unique. I have never seen, heard or tasted this bird. I therefore and hereby, choose the Owl, knowing that I can approach my subject without prejudice, and feeling that I am in a position to speak freely and frankly out of an inexperience as wide as the universe. If I seem at times to have some accurate information on my subject you must not put it down to my direct knowledge but must remember that I know something of mankind and, as one can learn the shape of the earth from its shadow on the moon, so one may surmise much about owls from observing people who are under the strigine eclipse. Let us consider the Owl.

There are three kinds of owls:—the screech owl, the stuffed owl and the boiled owl.

The screech owl (*strix monotona*) is recognized by its grievance.

Whether at home or abroad, in the church, the forum or the marketplace, it never ceases its ululations. Men may come and men may go but it goes on forever. It never sleeps, it never forgets, it always insists, "still harping on my daughter." As an insister it has the phonograph beaten and outclassed, despite the latter's many records. Let the phonograph start on "Has any one here seen Kelly," which is allowing a good handicap, and then enter the screech owl a mile or so behind,—but don't do it. Phonographs cost good money.

For a diet the screech owl chews the rag and, like the well known soupeater of the intemperate zone (*juliensis oratorio*), it chews audibly. It sometimes swallows its cud and may then die, but this event is, unhappily, rare. Screech owls seldom die but, as a rule, are superannuated, entering a state of infinite rag-chewing. Superannuated specimens may be seen perched on the gravestones of dead grievances, whence they proclaim the immortality of the grouch. Jeshurun of olden time waxed fat and kicked, but these kick and wax fat. Deprive a screech owl of its rag and it goes the way of the cow that loses her cud.

Some may ask, "What is this rag?" Its name is Legion. One calls it the cost of living, another the third division question, a third "the woman in the service." The rag-chewers themselves speak of it as

"The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,

The pangs of disprized love, the law's delay,  
The insolence of office, and the spurns  
That patient merit of the unworthy takes."

Whatever it be, the screech owl is not happy without it. Male and female were the screech owls created and, as Mr. Kipling has told the Ladies Home Journal in a burst of confidence at a dollar a word, "the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

The stuffed owl (*strix mothballibus*) is the owl of academic and other intellectual life. He is not immortal; the moths attend to that. He is said to be picturesque and is accounted wise. He typifies unapplied knowledge, wisdom in the doldrums, as the fox typifies knowledge in action. Yet he thinks himself the sage *par excellence*, and is discontented unless standing guard in a library over an edition, the one before the last preferred, of the Britannica Encyclopedia. While the screech owl keeps up a racket, the stuffed owl keeps up appearances. He is the Big Fake. He has many worshippers, notably among the folks who set examination papers. He is the arbiter on non-essential points. It is to him that we address our supplications when we would ascertain the area of Arizona or the boundaries of Bulgaria, or the ratio subsisting between the circumference and the diameter of the circle, which he can tell to the fifty-seventh decimal place.

The stuffed owl feeds on small insects known as book-worms. These insects approach their devourer without fear. In fact they are urged on to their fate by certain worshippers of the bird, called tutors—not tooters, mind you—who picture him as a deity who will give the poor book-worms life. They are received by the stuffed owl with all dignity, and then absorbed. You have all noted the absorbed look on a book-worm's face. He has been to the stuffed owl and returned, for our bird is a regurgitator and has the book-worm coming and going.

The stuffed owl has a home, but no home-life. He is ever off, in his

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mind, searching for the ends of some comet's parabola. George Eliot said that the poet Young had no attachment to any natural object nearer than the moon. He must have been a good deal of a stuffed owl.

And yet good people find places in their homes and in their offices for this bird and refer to him with pride. "How do you like my owl?" they ask. "He comes of good stock, you know—has a pedigree reaching back to Aristotle." And so on. Well, I suppose a stuffed owl is better than a dead rat in one's house, but we should be thankful that our choice of pets is not limited.

The third kind of owl is the boiled owl (*strix siphlicata*.) He is the owl of the Morning After, the bird with the dark brown taste in his mouth. Look his record up in the dictionary. Here it is:—"Owl, to feel like a boiled: to experience sensations midway between being drawn through a knot-hole and swallowing a lime-kiln."

The boiled owl has no delusions. While the screech owl clamors for justice, and never knows when it comes, while the stuffed owl lies in wait with lidless eyes for wisdom which he cannot use, the boiled owl knows that he has received justice and is getting wisdom, though not in the orthodox way. Of the three I prefer, if I have a preference, the boiled variety. There is blood in his veins at least, even after his boiling, and not sawdust or vinegar. His melancholy is of the repentant sort, although it may come from finding himself among the husks which the swine do eat. It is not the sour melancholy of the screech owl or the pedantic melancholy of the stuffed owl. It is the melancholy which a bromo-seltzer will make fizz with hope.

However, that is the best that can be said for the boiled owl. He is not very ornamental, nor can we offer him the usual consolation prize of calling him very useful. The

stewed prune and the boiled owl—these two I would name as the twin horrors of the breakfast table, and the second is the greater horror of the pair, because the prune does not journey beyond the breakfast room. You and I and all of us have to suffer with the boiled owl when he reaches the office. True he will apologize later in the day, when his eye has become used to the light, and will explain that he ate too heartily of welsh rarebit the night before and could not sleep, but his first hour is enough to ungear all nerves for the rest of the morning.

These are the three kinds of owls. I would rather be a goat. A goat is better than the screech owl, for he digests the rag that he chews. He is better than the stuffed owl, for he sees what he wants and butts in after it. And he is not at all like the boiled owl, for he does not find any "difference in the morning," no odds what he eats the night before.

The next chapter will be on Peacocks or Penguins, I am not sure which. I expect to have a chapter, also, on Round Robins which I will offer to *The Civilian* when parliament reassembles.

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### C. S. SAVINGS AND LOAN SOCIETY OF OTTAWA.

In a recent issue of *The Civilian* an article appeared entitled "The Civil Service Savings and Loan Society, who should belong and how to join," as a consequence of which several applications for membership in the society were received and the following noteworthy letter to the manager:

The Chief  
The Government Weekly,  
New York City, Nov. 8, 1911.  
Mr. F. S. James,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:—I read with considerable interest the article in *The Civilian* concerning your Civil Service



Savings and Loan Society and am going to impose on your good nature to the extent of asking you to send me a copy of your By-laws and any other printed matter which might fully explain the workings of your society. Surely you are engaged in a good cause and should have a large membership. With best wishes,

I am,

Very sincerely

(Sgd.) CHAS. I. STENGLE.

Associate Editor.

The Chief is a recognized authority in national, state and city affairs. From the letter head we extract the following:

"And The Chief, that admirable newspaper which from a small beginning has grown to be almost a municipal institution and which because of its efficiency in spreading useful information among a great class, more than deserves passing notice."—Metropolitan Magazine.

#### THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

The civil servant who tries to advance ideas for the good of the service in a "family journal" like *The Civilian*, is in a somewhat delicate position, as he must (very

properly) try to avoid writing words that would seem the least bit partisan, and must also (very properly, too) abstain from anything that might appear to adversely criticize any of the departments. If I have had the misfortune to err in these regards, I regret it, for I strongly desire to do all things in a strictly orderly way and to have my writings approved.

\* \* \*

I would like to see *The Civilian* circulate more freely in railway mail circles, for it becomes increasingly valuable as a chronicler of matters transpiring in the civil service generally. It would be a simple matter for every railway mail clerk in the Dominion to see *The Civilian* regularly. How? By the clerks on each route subscribing sufficient to pay the annual subscription for a copy addressed to each route. The tax on each clerk would be a mere trifle, while, by keeping the journal in a mail car on each route, they could all see what was going on in the service. Try it, boys.

\* \* \*

I was glad to read that Hon. R. L. Borden had promised to have the Outside Service, like the Inside Service, placed under the control of the

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permanent Civil Service Commission. All civil servants who desire to see the whole service taken out of politics (as is the case in the United Kingdom, where merit is the test) will be very pleased to hear that such a fine forward movement is contemplated, for it will surely raise the status of the Government employees and, at the same time, give Parliament a much freer chance to attend to the national affairs.

\* \* \*

As the year approaches a close, I would respectfully call the attention of the P. O. Department to the improvements which I have advocated during the year. Some of them were suggested in the reports of the United States Postmaster General and his assistants, while others are desired by the railway mail clerks, or considered needful by the writer for the good of the service. The Postmaster-General, Deputy P. M. G. and Controller of the R. M. S. may find, in the list, a suggestion worthy of their consideration:—The re-establishment of superannuation as suggested by the special C. S. Commission; the assignment of a fund to the P. M. G. by Parliament to reward P. O. employees making suggestions of value to the service; the raising of the annual increase to R. M. clerks paid from \$800 up from \$50 to \$75 or \$100, according to the marks won at the annual Case Examination; the institution of some form of accident insurance and the automatic granting of an indemnity to the widows or children of railway mail clerks permanently disabled or killed while on duty; the more careful cleaning and disinfecting of railway mail cars; and the appointment of railway mail car inspectors, who could also perform other duties, such as presiding at annual Case Examinations.

\* \* \*

There were other suggestions made, but these are the most important ones.

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\* \* \*

After many years passed in the service, and from personal observation, I would say that the civil service generally is steadily improving in desirable ways. This is gratifying. Parliament and the chiefs of the different departments deserve full credit for the efforts made to uplift the civil service and make it more efficient. It is sincerely to be hoped that every Government employee in Canada will respond to the efforts made for the betterment of their condition by giving loyal and faithful service of the best type.

\* \* \*

May Christmas inspire us all to make happy those who know more of life's sorrows than joys, and may the coming new year find Canada enjoying an increasing moral and material uplift.

G. O'C.

## Correspondence.

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

### The Commission and The Civilian.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

In a discussion with friends of the subject of your leading editorial in last issue—the promotions by the Civil Service Commissioners of officers in their department—I found that, as soon as we went below the surface of the case, we differed completely as to the facts. Your editorial, while worthy of *The Civilian's* excellent reputation, assumes a knowledge on the part of your readers which some of those readers—at least I can speak with absolute certainty concerning one—do not possess.

From such facts as I do know, and still more from the strong opinions expressed by those whom I hear discussing the matter in conversation, I am led to believe that this action of the Commission, whether wise or unwise, is one of the most important events in the recent history of the Civil Service. Would you, then, give us the facts of the case in some early issue of *The Civilian*? Of course, I do not mean merely the names or the amounts of money involved, but the broad facts by which a member of the civil service can fairly judge whether he is called upon, either by self interest or by duty to others, to form an opinion in the matter.

B. GRADE.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I notice in an editorial of yours of current date that you seem to blame the Civil Service Commissioners for not "reorganizing" the departments. You point to certain promotions they have made in their own branch as part of a "reorganization" process, and you call on them,

in a tone that is reproachful if not stronger, to do the same elsewhere.

It seems to me that you are missing the point somewhat. Any recent changes that have been made as a result of "reorganization" in the Commissioners' office have been made by the commissioners primarily in their capacity of deputy heads, and only secondarily in their capacity as Civil Service Commissioners. The commissioners as commissioners alone have no more power to "reorganize" any department, even their own, than have the editors of *The Civilian*. The "reorganization" of a department must be set on foot by the head of the department, and it is to him and to his deputy, that you should address your reproaches. I hope you will point this out some time with emphasis, as I have seen the same confusion expressed elsewhere. The whole problem of finding a remedy in such a case seems to me to depend on a proper diagnosis.

Yours,

JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Ottawa, Dec. 1.

### An Afternoon With Gordon Rogers.

It was my good fortune on a recent Saturday afternoon to be at the Rideau St. Convent where Mr. Gordon Rogers, our own G. R. of the Dept. of Agriculture, was giving a lecture and entertainment under the auspices of the d'Youville Circle. The subject of both the lecture and the entertainment was Albert Chevalier, "poet, composer, dramatist and master of make-up and the dramatic art." I do not know whether Gordon is a composer or not (he is in the Public Health branch of the service and must know something of decomposition) but the other titles listed above might have been written with fidelity under the name of Rogers on the programme.

I first knew Rogers as a poet. Just

after my coming to Ottawa (*post hoc, non ergo propter hoc*) he published an entertaining book of verse under the title of "Government Clerks." I remember going into a fruit store about that time in search of grapes and asking the man in charge, "Have you Red Rogers?" Imagine my surprise when he replied, "Oh, yes, I think a great deal of that fellow, even if he is a civil servant." That was my introduction to our friend, and since then I have come to know him as a "dramatist and master of make-up and the dramatic art." I have seen him as Mr. Dooley and as Harry Lauder, but I think he out-Gordons Rogers as Albert Chevalier.

What pleased me most was his presentation of "The Workhouse Man." Rogers has a reputation as an interpreter of the humorous and whimsical, but to know his ability one should see him in a more serious role. I would give you this tip. If Gordon Rogers appears in another interpretation of Chevalier, go and see and hear him, and, if he does not have "The Workhouse Man" on his programme, call for it. Gordon is a good-natured fellow and is always willing to give you your money's worth on your own calculations of what that is.

I have spoken of his impersonation of Chevalier, but I must say a word about the lecture part of his programme. He called it "a biographical sketch" and gave it as a talk, but the matter and style of his production was good enough to earn for it a more pretentious title. He spoke with such easy naturalness that the platform seemed lowered as soon as he began to speak. I think that this is the sign by which you know a good lecturer. He was himself, and his impersonations of Rogers took rank with his impersonations of Chevalier.

S. W.

## Personals.

### Born.

LABBE—On Nov. 28 1911, at Maternity Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Labbe, of the Dominion Observatory a son.

FOWLER—On 27th Nov., at 62 Waverley St., to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fowler of the Post Office Dept., a daughter.

McLACHLIN—On Dec. 6, 1911, to Mr. and Mrs. G. R. McLachlin, of the Post Office Dept., 5 Spruce St., a daughter.

### Married.

LAFRANCE—MOREAU—On Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1911, at the Basilica, by Rev. Father Campeau, Thora Moreau to Isidore Lafrance, of the Interior Dept., Ottawa.

RIGGS—MILLS—At the residence of the bride's parents, 68 McLaren St., on Wednesday evening, Nov. 29th, by Rev. W. T. Herdridge, D.D., Helene Masson, elder daughter of Nathaniel Mills, postmaster of the House of Commons, and Mrs. Mills, to Mr. Robert Lee Riggs, of Winnipeg, son of the late John Sidney Riggs, Esq., of Charleston, South Carolina.

LANDRY—KEALEY—On Wednesday, the 29th Nov., 1911, at St. Joseph's Church, by Rev. F. Murphy, O.M.I., Mary E., daughter of the late Patrick Kealey to E. S. Landry, of the Transcontinental staff, son of Mr. O. Landry, of Ottawa.

BRADLEY—BYRNE—By Rev. W. A. McIlroy, B.A., Mary Lillian Byrne to J. D. Bradley of the Department of Interior.

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