

THE CIVILIAN

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No. 11

Art and Blue Books

There is a tradition that all Government reports should be printed in blue covers. Different theories have been advanced to account for the colour. One is that they are primarily calculated to give one the blues and have the decency to be frank about it from the start. Another and more subtle explanation is that, inasmuch as Government reports are about the public business and everybody's business is nobody's business, blue books are not meant to be read anyway. Hence the need of a distinguishing colour and letterpress so that they can be popped into the waste paper basket without loss of time.

But one of the features of modern days is the number of valuable special reports that are being issued by the Government — reports that the Government wants read — prepared by experts in their line, on subjects that no one but a Government can handle, and whose success is to the credit of the service. Time was when all went forth in the tradi-

THE ATTRACTIVE COVER OF A RECENT GOVERNMENT REPORT.



The above design embellishes the cover of an interesting and valuable report recently issued by Mr. R. E. Young, Chief Geographer, Department of the Interior. "Jack Canuck" stands on the northerly margin of the settled prairies — Prince Albert, Battleford, Edmonton at his feet — looking out over the "hinterland."

tional garb typical chiefly of perfunctory obedience to statute. Latterly, however, has come a demand for more suitable dress and appearance. A case in point of a report playing up to its subject and intrinsic interest in this way is Mr. R. E. Young's on "The New Northwest." It is not alone of its kind, but it is recent and among the most successful. The whole movement in this direction is so commendable and so worthy of encouragement by the Government that we do not hesitate to give Mr. Young's cover the glory of reproduction on *The Civilian's* front page.

How Canadian Postmasters are Organized.

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION.

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Write the Secretary at any time for information.

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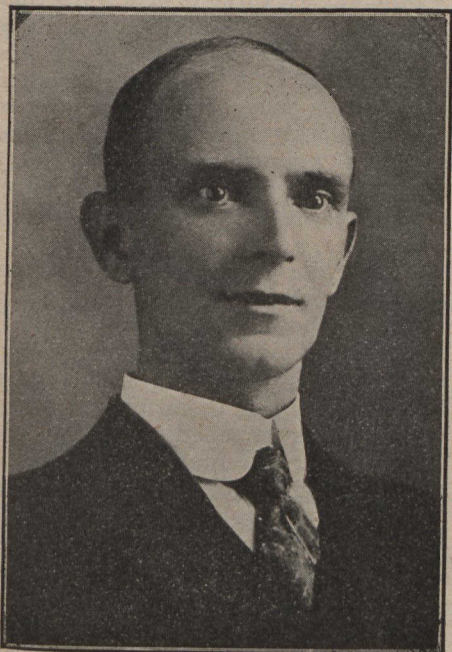
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Civilian Portraits.

A REPRESENTATIVE WESTERNER.

One of the best known among employees of the Government, west of the Rocky Mountains, is W. F. Trant of the Post Office Inspector's staff, Vancouver, B.C. Though an Englishman born and bred, Mr. Trant has the voracity as well as the capacity for work which is typically western, and to his never-failing



MR. W. F. TRANT.

energy is due in large part the success of civil service organization in British Columbia. He was born in London, Eng., in 1871, the eldest son of Wm. Trant, M.A., an English journalist and war correspondent, now Police Magistrate of Regina, Sask., who forsook the pen to take up the plough, and, with his family, came to the Canadian Northwest in 1889. Mr. Trant spent a portion of his youth in India, and the remainder in England, where he received a pub-

lic school education. From 1889 to 1896 he farmed, spasmodically, in the then territory of Assiniboia. At the end of that time he came to the conclusion that he was not suited to the life bucolic, so sought his fortunes in the goldfields of British Columbia. Whether the gold was scarce, or for other reasons, in 1900 he obtained an appointment as Railway Mail Clerk in the Vancouver District, and thus became a civil servant. Mr. Trant remained with the Railway Mail Service Branch until 1907, when he was transferred to the office of the Post Office Inspector, Vancouver, in which office he is now a first-class clerk. An outstanding feature in Mr. Trant's career has been the interest he has always taken in the matter of civil service organization, which he has greatly furthered in British Columbia. He took an active part in the organization of the Dominion Civil Service Association of B. C., and has been its Secretary-Treasurer, as well as Secretary of its Vancouver Branch, from the beginning. He was the delegate of that Association (and the only delegate from west of the Great Lakes) to the Convention held in Ottawa in April, 1909, at which the Federation was organized.

October.

When I was a little fellow, long ago,
The season of all seasons seemed to me
The summer's afterglow and fantasy—
The red October of Ontario:
To ramble unrestrained where maples grow
Thicket with butternut and hickory,
And be the while companioned airily
By elfin things a child alone may know!
And how with mugs of cider, sweet and
mellow,
And block and hammer for the gathered
store
Of toothsome nuts, we'd lie around before
The fire at nights, and hear the old folks
tell o'
Red Indians and bears and the Yankee war—
Long ago, when I was a little fellow!

How the Sugar Trust fooled the Custom-House Clerks.

And how Richard Parr, a Custom-House Employee, Received a Reward of \$100,000 from the U. S. Government for the Discovery of the Colossal Fraud.

The American Sugar Refining Company—alias in common parlance the Sugar Trust—owns at Williamsburg, in Brooklyn, the largest sugar refinery in the world. At its extensive docks are landed yearly more than a billion pounds of raw sugar brought from the ends of the earth. As the sugar is landed it is weighed, for the computation of the duties, on big platform scales—seventeen in number—whose recording beams are inclosed in narrow scale-houses, spaced at regular intervals along the docks. In each scale-house sits two men, a Custom-House employee known as the Government weigher and a sugar company employee known as the company checker. The former does the weighing—adjusting, as each truck-load or draft of three bags is run upon the platform, the poise on the scale-beam, reading off the weight, and recording it in his book. The latter is supposed to watch the weigher and record the weight of each draft in a book of his own.

On a day in November, 1907, one Richard Parr strolled on to the Williamsburg docks. Parr was an employee of the Custom-House who had some time before encountered signs that seemed to indicate that all was not right in the method of weighing the dutiable sugar. On going to headquarters with his suspicions, he was directed to follow up the trail he had come upon. The trail led him to the docks on this particular morning, and this is what ensued:

A cargo of sugar was being discharged from the steamship *Strathyre*, and four of the scale-houses were in active use. Parr suddenly appeared at the door of one of the houses, and directed the Government

weigher, who rose to meet him, to finish the weighing of the draft of sugar which was just at that moment on the platform. He had already told another Government employee who was at work on the dock to stop the two drafts that had just been weighed. All three drafts were then reweighed, with interesting results. The truck-load which was on the scales when Parr appeared weighed exactly the same; but the other two truck-loads weighed fourteen and eighteen pounds more respectively than their previous weight as recorded in the Government weigher's book!

Meanwhile the company checker, a man named Kehoe, sat in his chair, his left elbow on his knee, his left hand out of sight in the corner, and a flag of distress flying in his face. Parr ordered him to get up, sat down in his place, reached down in the corner, where he found the end of a narrow steel spring loosely fitted into a hole through the stanchion of the scale. The inner end of the spring rested upon the walking beam of the scale, with the general effect that it made a truck-load of sugar apparently weigh from ten to twenty pounds less than its actual weight. Manipulated by the checker, the scale behaved normally when the truck was removed. The illustration on the next page, which is taken from the *New York Outlook*, shows how the arrangement worked.

The developments from Parr's discovery in 1907 are now matter of history. The frauds, it appeared, amounted in the aggregate to millions of money filched from the revenues of the United States. Step by step complicity in the crime was fastened upon the employees and

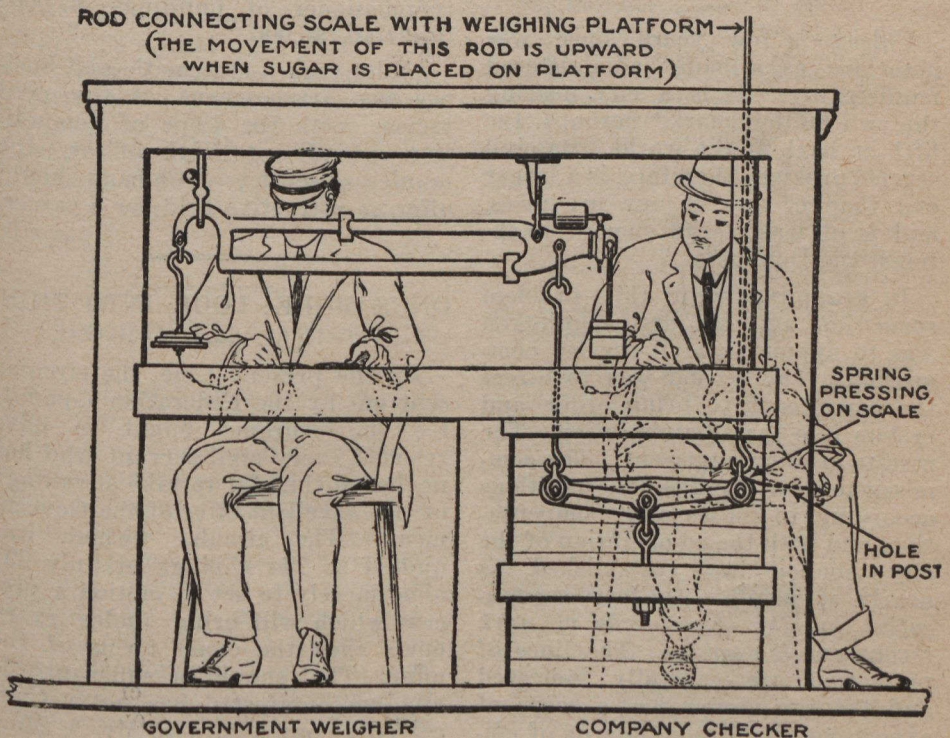
officials of the trust until it has reached at last the "men higher up," and the trust stands disgraced before the whole world. With the conviction by a jury of Charles R. Heike, the secretary of the trust, the curtain has now fallen that rose twenty-two months before when Parr first came upon the fatal spring.

A pleasant aftermath to record for civil servants is that Parr was granted the sum of \$100,000 for his services in connection with the uncovering of the frauds. It is said, also, that he will receive further proofs of the estimation with which the government regards his work. Commenting on which, the New York Post remarks:

Whether Richard J. Parr gets \$100,000, or seven times that amount, for his services in exposing the Sugar Trust frauds, there can be no doubt that so handsome a reward

will have a bracing effect on the morale of the government service as a whole. It is quite true that the government has a right to look to its employees for loyal service as a matter of the day's work and in no expectation of any other reward than the approval of their own conscience. But men would not be men if so dramatic a demonstration of the somewhat neglected proposition that honesty is the best policy failed to make its impression. In an age which gives extraordinary rewards to the exceptional, it is not unfitting that so extraordinary a combination of intelligence, zeal, and courage as Richard J. Parr displayed in the up-hill fight against the sugar thieves should receive exceptional recognition. Yet it would be unfair to thousands and tens of thousands of government servants not to point out that good fortune, too, played its part in Parr's case, and that in faithful attendance to duty his case is not uncommon. So much has been said and written about shiftlessness and incompetency among government employees as to obscure the fact that for every lax or unfaithful servant, there must, in the nature of things, be ten zealous and efficient servants, or the work of the government could not go on at all.

DIAGRAM OF CUSTOM HOUSE SCALE ROOM.



THE CIVILIAN

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of Canada.

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THE EDITORS,
THE CIVILIAN,
P. O. Box 484, Ottawa

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

Ottawa, Sept. 23rd, 1910

A GREAT CITY'S EXAMPLE.

Chicago a few years since was notorious as a badly administered municipality. It is a city nearing the two million mark, perhaps the fifth or sixth of the world. Its civil service problem, therefore, is a larger one than of any of our provinces, and is at least large enough to interest the Dominion.

In grappling with this problem some time ago, the first step taken was to appoint a civil service commission. The second was to direct the commission to bring order and system into the administration. The results are now apparent. The commissioners have graded the positions according to duties and compensation, and with the co-operation of the city council have established, as nearly as possible, *uniform compensation for the same grade of work throughout the service*. The lines of promotion are carefully indicated and the commission has a corps of experts to establish standards of effi-

ciency for the various grades of employment and to keep records for the purposes of promotion.

Among other features of the work of the commission, one is impressed by the number of high-grade positions included in the competitive class. Probably in no other case has competition so uniformly been applied to the higher municipal offices. Except for the heads of the various departments, practically every high-grade position is in the competitive class. Among these competitive positions may be cited the following:—

Deputy controller and auditor, \$4,000; assistant city treasurer, \$5,000; city architect, \$4,000; deputy commissioner of public works, \$5,000; city engineer, \$8,000; superintendent, bureau of water, \$4,500; superintendent, bureau of streets, \$5,000; superintendent, bureau of sewers, \$4,500; assistant commissioner of health, \$4,500; assistant superintendent of police, \$5,000; assistant fire marshal, \$5,000; deputy commissioner of buildings, \$4,000; librarian, \$6,000.

Under such a systematic and businesslike arrangement of the civil service, with the scope of competition extending to high offices, the municipal service of Chicago should offer an attractive field for a career.

ONCE MORE: LOOK INTO THIS.

By the present time the circular sent out by the Federation Committee on Insurance ought to have reached every civil servant who has neglected thus far to take advantage of this excellent offer of the Government. The circular (which was quoted in *The Civilian* of July 29) aims merely to set in motion a process which will bring under every one's eyes the exact terms of the offer. That should be sufficient. If any one interested has not yet received a copy a card to Mr. A. Mac-

Millan, Customs Department, Ottawa, Secretary of the Committee, or to *The Civilian*, will correct the omission. Let us show the Government that as a body of men we of the service have the elementary business faculty of knowing a good thing when we see it.

THE TWIN DIVINITIES.

In that world whose twin divinities are Circulation and Advertising, *The Civilian*, as our friends will have noted, is coming to hold a more and more satisfactory place. We are now within easy hailing distance of 2,500 subscribers, and our advertising is only a very little short of a page for every hundred readers. By the end of the year we want 3,000 paid subscribers and an even thirty pages of advertising. Trade in the latter follows the flag of circulation, pretty much as a law of nature. It is subscribers, therefore, that we chiefly solicit just now, and if any reader can give us a kind word with a non-subscribing friend, to the end that he turn from his error, we shall be duly grateful. We shall give proof of gratitude as well, for our rule is: an additional page of reading matter for every similar gain in business patronage.

LE CONGRES EUCHARISTIQUE.

Le principal événement de la dernière quinzaine au Canada a été par excellence le Congrès Eucharistique. Sa grandeur comme spectacle seul l'élève au-dessus des intérêts de race, et lui donne une importance nationale. Quoiqu'essentiellement une cérémonie religieuse, et appuyant énergiquement une question de doctrine des plus chaleureusement combattues, le Congrès a eu lieu sans exciter autrement de controverses; ce qui prouve combien les différences de race et de religion ont été ren-

contrées et domptées par notre système de gouvernement. Incidemment, plusieurs centaines des fonctionnaires d'Etat, résidents à Montreal, ont contribué d'une manière très importante à la réussite, sans friction, de l'un des plus grandioses triomphes, en fait d'organisation, que notre pays ait jamais vu.

IN THE POST OFFICE.

Soft azure were the maiden's eyes,
Her port was mild and meek,
The beauties of the briar rose
Were mirrored on her cheek.
Her brow was broad and beautiful,
Her hair was lustrous gold,
Her features were Diana-like,
Of purest Grecian mould.

She stepped from out a motor-car
With elegance and grace,
Sweet intellectuality
Illumed her lovely face.
Her suit was an ideal fit,
The cloth was a mellow brown;
She was the smartest little maid
In all this widespread town.

She had some business of
The Registration sort,
A birthday gift, a trifle for
A Journalistic Sport
Who lives and toils in Citydom,
And wears a crimson vest
While he is building castles for
The girl he loves the best.

The chap behind the counter said,
In accents gruff but clear,
As he observed the pretty maid,
"Just sign your name down here."
She turned away and heaved a sigh,
Her face was strangely white,
Oh, what a dreadful circumstance!
The maiden could not write!

Irresolute the maiden stood
She was embarrassed so.
The hastening throng was all about,
She watched it come and go.
At last she bravely sought the man,
To whom she spoke before,
And told her woe. The fellow wept
Long ere the tale was o'er.

The maid was not illiterate,
She knew Charles Dana Gibson,
De Maupassant and Maeterlinck,
George Bernard Shaw and Ibsen.
Why could she not inscribe her name
Without this fearful fuss?
—Because a public Postal Pen
Is never worth a cuss.

—The Transmitter.

At the Sign of the Wooden Leg.

Concerning the Retirement Fund.

Before me lies a blue letter, a personal letter from the Deputy Minister of Finance, stating that S. Wegg, Esq., has the sum of—well, it is not much, but it is some—at his credit in the Civil Service Retirement Fund. You know the form and style of the letter, written in the limpid official language of the State. Spread out, the document looks like the skin of some animal. I wonder if this is symbolical. The province of the Treasury Board is to suggest rather than to order. It is always handing out minutes. Yet, so far as money is concerned, it keeps ours.

Idealize this letter as we may, there is no excitement attending its receipt. Our money has been at usury and we know the rate. We do not expect our steward to say: Lo, here is a hundred-fold, or fifty-fold, or ten-fold, or even, here is your talent wrapped in a napkin. A knowledge of the size of one's salary and such elementary arithmetic as used to carry one through the promotion exams. in the old days is all that is required to keep tab on our bankers. There are no bonuses because of unexpected demands for our goods, no deferred dividends, no melon-cutting to add zest to the yearly rendering of the statements. It is on that account that I wish to make a suggestion to the authorities.

My suggestion involves the joint use of the quarterly report and the Retirement Fund as a means by which the Government may effectively give recognition of faithful service and penalize the malingerers. When I say quarterly report I do not mean that entire document mostly made up, as I understand it, of column upon column of non-committal Dittos headed by a colonel called Good or Excellent as the cus-

tom may be in any one department. These non-coms. are not to be taken seriously. They are full-dress soldiers for parade purposes only. There is in the report, however, one column of deadly fighting men, presenting to the eye the appearance of an awkward squad, but to those who drill them known as sharpshooters whose bullets are to be feared as the bolts of Jove. This is the famed Punctuality Column, upon whose banner is emblazoned a Clock rampart, and whose battle cry is *Cave Leonem!* (Beware of the Line!) The other parts of the report are, like the men of Falstaff's company, mere food for powder. The Punctuality Column is the Pretorian Guard with power to buy and sell the purple. Let the Retirement Fund get next.

At present, interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum is allowed all contributors alike. They are called Contributors, I note. I like the euphemism. It reminds one of the Benevolences, as the forced loans of the Tudors were called. At any rate, or rather at four per cent., the Fund does not distinguish between the just and the unjust. The same rain, and the same interest due, falls on both. Can't we improve on this? Now, we have five grades of conduct, or time, in our report,—note the old relation between *tempora* and *mores*,—known as Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor and Bad. To each of these could be allotted its proper rate of interest based on a six months' average, and at each interest-reckoning date the Civil Service Commission could give the Finance Department a statement showing the rate at which each contributor's principal should be accumulated.

The general schedule might be as follows:—

Moral Quality per horologium	Pecuniary Equivalent per centum
Excellent.....	Eight
Good.....	Six
Fair.....	Four
Poor.....	Two
Bad.....	Nil
Timekeepers.....	Two in the hole.

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18 lbs Granulated Sugar	99
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9 lbs Flour	33
30ct Coffee, fresh ground, lb	25
45ct Black or Japan Tea, a lb	39
2 lbs Pure Lard	35
3 Bot. Pattersons Sauce	25
Punch Sauce, per bot.	10 & 20
Cooked Ham, per lb.	35
Windsor Bacon per lb.	25
Breakfast " " "	23
Sausages " "	12
2 lb box Acadia Cod Fish	23
Peanut Butter, per lb.	25
Mild Cheese " "	15
Old do " "	17
6 Pkgs. Custine	25

Crema Icing, per tin	15
3 pk. Corn Starch (Bensons)	25
2 lbs Table Figs	25
3 lbs Cream Wheat	14
8 lbs Whole Peas	23
2 lbs Patna Rice	11
3 pkgs. Malta Vita	25
2 " Shredded Wheat or Triscuit	25
Clover Honey per lb sections	15
Fruit Sugars, per lb.	8
35c Lemons per doz.	19
6 lbs Gold Dust Corn Meal	23
20c bot. Diamond Catsup	15
2 lbs New Dates	15
3 lbs Currants	25
Limburger Cheese per lb	25
3 lbs Rolled Wheat	14
2 Tins Campbells Soups	25

SUNDRIES

3 lbs Soap Chips	25
20ct. Cake Castile Soap	12
½ lb Keen's Blue	9
2 bot. Savage Water	10
3 doz. Spring Clothes Pins	10
6 Bars Gilt Edge Soap	25
10ct box Ammonia 3 for	25

6 Pkgs. Pearline	25
6 Bars Queens Laundry Soap	25
3 lbs Washing Soda	5
3 lbs Laundry Starch	21
½ Gal. Sealers per doz.	85
Quart " " "	75
Pint " " "	65

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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.

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THE ROYAL ROAD

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This system being introduced, with what other eyes than now would we await the interest days returning on their silver wheels! With what feverish anxiety we would tear open our blue letters! No, the suspense, coupled with the mathematics, might cause some fatalities. It would be better, perhaps, to have different styles or colours of envelopes for the different rates so that a contributor could know at a glance the state of his soul and his savings. Inscriptions like those which used to be placed on children's cups might be employed to convey the tidings, as "For a Good Boy," or "A Token of Esteem," or "Time is Money," varied to suit those at the nether end of our list to such phrases as, "Verbum Sap," "Where do you spend your mornings?" "Where will you spend eternity?" Nor should

we forget that old aphorism suitable for inscription on all the notices,

"Early to bed and early to rise
Makes a man healthy, and wealthy, and
wise."

Our scheme would give substance to morality and ethics to finance. Principals would be recognized as principles, and interest would be the reward of interest. The Ledger, now a dull cold world without beauty, would shine like a moon with the reflected glory of the Attendance Book. Yet we must not become bibliolaters. Let us remember one thing. Above the Book is the Clock; above the Clock is the Sun; and above the Sun is the Civil Service Act with amendments thereto. Let me make my country's statutes, I do not care who writes her cheques.

SILAS WEGG.

LET'S GO FISHIN'.



How the Toronto News Portrays the Amicable Aftermath of the Hague Fisheries Decision. — The First Diplomatic Win in a Long Time for Canada on this Continent.

Serving John Bull among the Turks.

An Interesting Branch of the British Civil Service, which is Recruited by Careful Methods.

Among the higher appointments in the British civil service may be included those in the Consular Service of the countries generally grouped together under the title of the "Near East." There should be room for experiences somewhat out of the ordinary in official life in the Ottoman Dominions, Persia, Greece and Morocco. Hardly a day passes without some reference in the press to one or other of these more or less disturbed parts of the world; and though the actual work in connection with the appointments may be as humdrum as anywhere, it is carried on amid surroundings that contain the possibilities of exciting times.

In many Eastern countries where the laws are so different from those of the West, agreements, known as capitulations, have been made, by which the countries concerned surrender to the British Government the civil and criminal jurisdiction they would under normal conditions exercise over the British subjects residing there. In the countries under discussion, this jurisdiction is exercised by specially constituted Consular Courts, the staff of which is recruited by means of Open Competitive Examinations. In no case can the competition be called very keen, though it is growing in some of the later examinations.

One of the reasons for the relative fewness of candidates is that in the competition a specialty is made of foreign languages. French and Latin are compulsory, and of the four optional subjects—Greek, Italian, Ger-

man, and Spanish—all must be taken if success is to be assured.

Candidates must be unmarried, and must not be under 18 or over 24 years of age at the date of examination.

The successful candidates are required to proceed, as soon as possible after their appointments, to such one of the Universities as may be selected by the Secretary of State, where they will study Oriental languages. They reside there as members of the University for not less than seven months in the year during two consecutive years. During their residence they are called on to pass examinations, success in which is requisite to qualify them for continuance in the service. Their course of studies will include Turkish, Persian, Arabic, French, Russian, Turkish and Persian History, and Elements of English Law. During their residence they receive a salary of £200 per annum. They are required, before proceeding to the University, to execute a bond, with a sufficient surety for the payment of £500 to his Majesty's Government in the event of their leaving the service of their own free will, or being discharged from it for misconduct or neglect of duties, within five years. They must clearly understand that their retention and advancement in the service will depend on their efficiency and general good conduct.

After completion of the course of training, students are appointed as Assistants for service at the Embassy at Constantinople, the Legations at Teheran, Athens, or Morocco, or in one of H.M.'s Consulates in the Near East, at a salary of £300 per annum.

—Abridged from *The Civil Service Gazette*.

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Book Review.

The Woman in the Service.

Report of the C. S. Commission of Great Britain.

Women Workers in the United States

The Civil Service Commission of Great Britain is a venerable body. Its annual report for 1909 just received is the fifty-fourth of its kind. It is also a busy organization, as the following brief summary will show:

During the year, 37,313 cases were dealt with; 32,073 being cases falling under the Order in Council of June 4th, 1870; 2,719 for Home Services; 408 for Indian Services; 998 for Military; 778 for Naval; and 337 for Colonial Services. Of these cases 5,630 were undecided at the end of the year.

For the Home, Indian and Colonial Services, there were 616 competitions (not counting those for Military and Naval Services, and examinations for promotion.) Of these, 85 were Open Competitions.

The following Comparative Statement of the cases decided during the years 1908 and 1909 will be of interest:—

	1908.	1909.
Candidates passed and certified	8,708	7,845
“ passed, no certificate required	1
“ rejected on literary examination	225	239
“ ineligible in respect of age	44	68
“ ineligible in respect of physical qualifications	161	105
“ ineligible in respect of character	6	6
“ unsuccessful in competition	16,414	15,714
“ who did not proceed to examination...	3,426	3,107
Total...	28,985	27,085

The above figures point to the fact that both the physical and the moral condition of the candidates must be very high, considering the fewness of the rejections on these grounds. On an educational basis about twice as many candidates, speaking roughly, are unsuccessful as are successful each year.

The National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States have recently completed a systematic study of the conditions of the wage-earning women of their country, and the results of this investigation have been published in a volume, "Wage-earning Women," edited by Miss Annie MacLean, Professor of Sociology of Adelphi College. It is the first time that such a study of industrial life, national in scope, has been undertaken by a body of college women under a religious organization, and this story of "wage-earning women" is told in the hope that a more vital interest will be taken in a class upon whom the burdens of life rest heavily. And such an interest can only be awakened by a wider knowledge of general labor conditions as they exist, for not until a sympathetic co-operation on the part of the public is secured can any great change be effected.

The investigation dealt with women in widely scattered regions from New York City to the Pacific coast, including typical mill towns in New England and New Jersey, the mining regions of Pennsylvania, the great industries of Chicago, the centres of hop-picking in Oregon and fruit-picking in California, and also the manufacturing centres of the Middle West. The investigator made a very thorough study not only of the numbers of women gainfully employed, and in what manner, but also of the living conditions and the social life of the individual worker. Beyond reporting wages and hours of labor they tell us many of the reasons which have led these women into industrial life, much concerning their outlook on life, and have even made a systematic report concerning their favorite amusements.

In the case of hop-picking in Ore-

gon, the woman who undertook to study the situation contrived to learn more about the workers than could otherwise be learned by going herself to the Far West, and joining in the life and labor of the pickers.

There are of course bright places in industrial life, but these women seem to have been impressed by the horrors of the working life. They unite in warning the people of their country of the far-reaching results of the present situation. If the welfare of all necessitates the welfare of each, if the common cause of race improvement is to become a national ideal, interest must be awakened in the condition of the millions of women and girls who work. For no appreciable improvement can be possible while young women are allowed to exhaust their physical energy and jeopardize their moral integrity in occupations where the remuneration practically precludes a normal standard of life. In New England it was found that the former commendable conditions of the cotton-mill have given way to a system "brutalized by greed and the exigencies of modern industry." They found there that the uncertainty of employment, the lack of security of even a meagre income, the long hours at sinew-and-nerve-breaking speed, all combined to dwarf the individual morally and physically. In New York where are found the highest prizes in the industrial world, one finds the most abject misery which a system of virtual wage-slavery could evolve. "It is here we see the former cash-girl earning \$6,000 a year as foreign buyer for her firm. It is here that behind still other counters girls are receiving \$2.50 or \$3.00 a week and growing weary of the futile effort to be respectable." The student who investigated the condition of the girls employed in the potteries arrives at the conclusion that girls are too valuable to society to be sacrificed for china. She found that a five-hundred dollar vase is liable to

be made in a room, cold, damp and dust-laden. The finished product gives no hint of the horrors following in the wake of the processes contributing to its beauty — the girls who weave gorgeous silk plaids "start and tremble at the slightest sound; their faces twitch as the threads shoot in and out to form the bright designs."

In other industries such as fruit-picking in California, and mining in Pennsylvania, are crowds of foreign women whose needs are of a different nature. They need to be taught the most elementary truths which have become part of a civilization higher than their own, and their case presents a special sphere of labor. The study, however, is chiefly concerned with the needs of the American working girl, and the conclusion reached is this: that a shorter working day and a higher wage must be advocated, definite steps must be taken to make technical training possible; facilities for recreation must be secured, and a system of more direct oversight of the health of the individual must be established. Otherwise the industrial life of women is a serious menace to society. For "the prime function of woman in society is not 'speeding up' on a machine; it is not turning out so many dozen gross of buttons in a day; it is not making the heaviest sale of notions or tending the greatest number of looms"; "the prime function of woman must ever be the perpetuating of the race," and any system which permits and encourages the former at the expense of the latter can only be regarded as guilty of a wilful disregard of the best interests of the State.

FREA CANNAIAD.

Unobserving.—"John, did you take the note to Mr. Jones?"

"Yes, but I don't think he can read it."

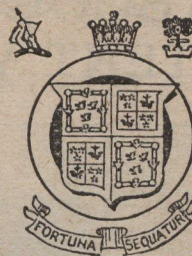
"Why so, John?"

"Because he is blind, sir. While I wur in the room he axed me twice where my hat wur, and it wur on my head all the time."—Housekeeper.



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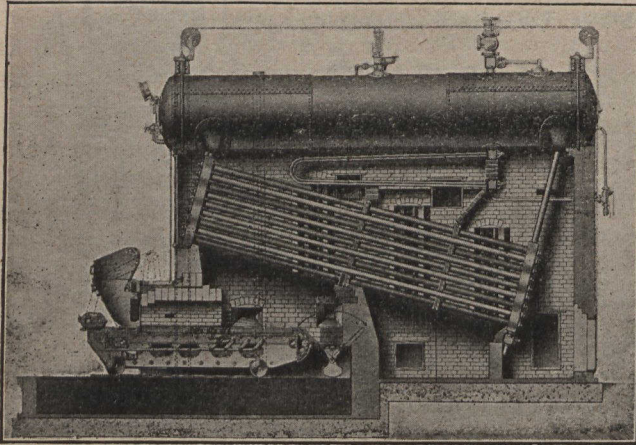
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A New Canadian Civil Service Publication.

The "Postal World" Appears as the Journalistic Servant of the Ontario Postmasters.

"The growing demand by postmasters throughout Canada for a journal in the simplest language, which will bring them together, or we might say more in touch with each other for mutual benefit, has resulted in the issuing of the *Postal World*. Its mission is to give postmasters an opportunity of discussing the different methods used in the various branches of the work. A comparison of the manner in which mails are sorted and despatched, especially by the offices on the same mailcar-line, the systems used in filing money order advices, and the manner in which important changes are noted. A general delivery system which would be universal, the general deliveries now varying in most all offices. Brief outlines and descriptions of office interiors and equipments will be given postmasters contemplating a change in the lay-out of their office, the desire of many now being for an equipment where the call boxes may be removed and lock boxes added as business increases."

In the above words, the "Postal World" announces its chief mission in life. It is published at Seaforth, Ont., and Mr. A. D. Sutherland is the editor. The first issue, that for the current month, is well written, and presents a very attractive table of contents.

Articles on the Stratford Post Office staff, Rural Free Delivery, the Postmasters Convention at Toronto, and a history of the British Postal Service are among the more important.

The *Postal World* should find a place of usefulness among the Canadian Postmasters, and with its confrere, the *Postal Current* of Manitoba, should do much to forward the interests of the large constituency to which it appeals.

OUR GROWING CIRCULATION.

Some two or three issues back we recorded the growth of our circulation in the outside service and reported two large accessions from the two extremes of the Dominion,—one coming from Vancouver and the other from St. John, N.B. To show that the central portions of the Canadian service are increasing their support of *The Civilian*, we have much pleasure in this issue of reporting no less than 106 new subscribers out of the Post Office staff in Montreal alone. It is our aim and confident hope to have our circulation in the outside service equal that of the inside, and at the present rate of increase this may be attained before the end of the year. *The Civilian* desires to represent all the different elements of the service from ocean to ocean.

Here and There Among Public Servants

Edited by

Suffragettes have not fought and bled in vain. Witness this story of a London Bobby. The brave fellow was discharged from the Force—unjustly, he thought—and begged Parliament to look into him. No results. Parliament had other interests in life. So the Bobby announced that on Monday week at high noon he would pull King George's nose.

There was quite a flutter, nor did the nation entirely calm down when the Bobby announced that he had decided to leave the King's nose unpulled. He has gained a hearing. Parliament will look into him now, and listen to his little tale. He says he is sorry he scared the country so, but that "only women known how to manage Parliament" and that he adopted their method of becoming an issue in practical politics.

Still, Suffragettes should not be too proud. It was from a man, Mr. Arthur Balfour, that they learned militancy. Said he, "Kick up a fuss. Keep kicking it up." And now that men are going in for militancy, "Snap" fears that the Suffragettes will experience a very dismal setback. At the present rate, the day will soon be here when Suffragettes can pull the King's nose without attracting the slightest attention.

* * *

France seems to have hit upon a novel antidote to the declining birth rate. A Bill has been introduced into the French Chamber, by Professor Lannologue, which is destined to create considerable concern amongst French civil servants. Under the proposed Bill every civil servant will be compelled to marry before he is twenty-five!

For some time past, and, indeed, even at the present time, the heads of the French Government departments are said to show decided bias in favour of bachelors. It is said that bachelors are free from home ties and domestic worries, which interfere with the proper discharge of their duties, and that the former can devote practically the whole of their time and energy to the State.

In regard to the other sex, almost the same system prevails, the single women being given a decided preference for higher posts over their married sisters. Marriage in France does not always mean that females surrender their posts.

The new bill also provides that married civil servants shall receive an allowance or gift of £8 per annum for every child under 16 after the first three. How far this provision is a forerunner of a scheme that will extend to the whole of the French nation one is not able to prophesy, but it is frankly

stated that the Republic has a right to experiment in such matters with its own employees.

* * *

The Morning Advertiser, London, Eng., in recording an exceptional record of service in the Postal Department, indulges in the heartrending practice of calculating the number of miles walked by the retiring Postman. We are told that the official walked 120,000 miles during his 42 years of service.

* * *

Trying to memorize 10,000 railway stations in seven States so he could pass the examination as a railway mail clerk, unbalanced the mind of Mace M. Young, and he was found wandering in the streets of Kansas City. He was taken to the General Hospital. Young is 28. For six months, nightly after his work at a grocery store, Young applied himself to the task. He was successful in the examination, passing with a high rank.

* * *

Twenty-seven thousand public employees in the United States have so far signed petitions for a contributory Civil Service Retirement Bill. Every member of the Cabinet signed them. Many of the petitions sent to outside cities have not been returned as yet. Fifty thousand signers at least are expected. Two thousand two hundred and thirty-two out of a total of two thousand five hundred employees signed the petition in New York City.

* * *

The Hampshire Telegraph has the following:—"The woman who had charge of a certain village post office was strongly suspected of tampering with parcels entrusted to her care. One day a rosy-cheeked youngster, dressed in his best clothes, entered the post office and carefully laid a huge slice of iced cake on the counter. 'With my sister the bride's compliments, and will you please eat as much as you can,' he said. The Postmistress smiled delightedly. 'How very kind of the bride to remember me,' she cried. 'Did she know of my weakness for wedding cake?' 'She did,' answered the youngster, coldly, 'and she thought she'd send you a bit of it this afternoon, just to take the edge off your appetite before she posted any boxes to her friends.'"

* * *

The coming transfer of the business of the National Telephone Company of Great Britain to the Post Office Department will take place at the end of next year—perhaps one

In Canada and the World Over

“Snap”

of the most gigantic industrial undertakings that have ever been effected. The whole staff of the National Telephone Company will with a few exceptions be transferred to the service of the Post Office. The preliminary arrangements are already actively proceeding.

* * *

The Danish Government have made new rules and regulations respecting the Civil Service of that country. By these enactments it is made the duty of the administration and of the heads of the various government departments to co-operate with and to ask the principal associations of civil service officials for their advice and help in all matters affecting the welfare of such officers, the conditions of employment, salaries, &c. We hope to be able to deal with the subject more fully in the near future, being in correspondence with Copenhagen upon the matter.

* * *

Washington, September 16.—The increased cost of living, approximating 50 per cent. since 1896, is the basis of a strong recommendation by Charles S. Whipple, paymaster-general of the United States army, in his annual report for a substantial increase in the salaries of the clerks in his office. He points out that these salaries were fixed far back, and there have been no changes or increases since, although mercantile, commercial, and other business corporations have recognized the necessity for paying higher salaries and granted increases accordingly.

* * *

In the course of an interview recently accorded the Melbourne “Herald,” Mr. Thomas, the Commonwealth Postmaster-General, said:—“I am prepared to recognize unions in the service in the fullest sense of the word, and I ask that men shall not individually wait on me with their grievances. They should be made to the officials of their association, who after consideration may bring them before me.” Mr. Thomas concluded by saying:—“Grievances must filter through the heads of their associations, and in doing so will be more satisfactory to everyone, especially the men themselves.”

* * *

The Civil Service Commissioners in Great Britain have taken a step which is of considerable interest to competitors at civil service examinations. This is the issue of specimens of examination papers which have been prepared to give a general idea of the nature of the examination which candidates will be

called upon to undergo. The situation in question is that of Fishery Officer under the Fishery Board for Scotland. Hitherto candidates have been unable to gather any idea as to the nature of the test they will be called upon to face at such examinations, being left totally, until they entered the examination room, in ignorance of the kind of questions likely to be put. It is with a view to guiding competitors in this respect that the specimen papers referred to have been issued.

* * *

At the time of the death of King Edward a new twopenny stamp was ready for issue in Great Britain. The Post Office authorities have destroyed the entire stock, with the exception of a few specimens, which have been placed in the museum at St. Martin's-le-Grand. This step was decided upon as it was not thought desirable that a stamp of new design, bearing the effigy of a dead Monarch, should be put into circulation, particularly in view of the fact that there will be a new issue of every grade of stamp early in the coming year.

* * *

A writer in *John Bull* throws out a suggestion to the Postmaster-General in regard to a method of cancellation by machinery in place of the system of hand stamping. In these days of hurry and bustle, he says, the practice of omitting to date letters, whether by accident or design, is on the increase. This is abundantly proved by the extensive use in business houses of india-rubber dating stamps, which are affixed to all correspondence, thereby identifying the date and frequently the hour of its receipt. Sometimes the “context” may provide the necessary clue, but not always. Now, there is a very simple remedy at hand, and one which should commend itself to the Postal authorities from many points of view. We have frequently noticed that a letter bears a clear imprint of the Postal dating stamp, which has penetrated the thin covering of the envelope. There is a record, more conclusive than any inserted by the writer, of the date of despatch, a record which may, especially if the letter be undated, be of the most vital importance to the recipient. A simple perforating machine, which whilst cancelling — more effectually than the present method — the postage-stamp, would of necessity penetrate through some portion of the contents of the envelope, and containing the same information as to date, place, hour of posting, would carry the idea still further and form a record which would be accepted as evidence in any Court of Law.

Correspondence.

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

Re Promotions from Subdivision to Subdivision in the Inside Service.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

My attention has been drawn to a letter in your issue of the 12th August, in which the writer, who signs himself "Legal," criticizes the position taken by the Sub-Committee on this subject in their report to the executive, as published in *The Civilian* on June 30th last.

As I am not a lawyer I do not propose to enter into an argument on a legal question with one who presumably is a lawyer, but I would just like to say with all due deference to "Legal," that he has not quite made out his case against the findings of the Sub-Committee, for while he claims that their points are not well taken, "in view of the provisions of the Act," he proceeds to establish his case not by quoting the particular provisions of the Act which contravene the Sub-Committee's argument, but by drawing deductions, inferences and implications himself from the Act and declaring the views of the Sub-Committee to be in error because they do not square with his own. While not in the least desiring to disparage "Legal's" opinions, I would like to remind him that in legal, as in other questions, an opinion, however valuable, is only an opinion, and does

not of itself determine anything. In other words, in the absence of an authoritative decision regarding the exact meaning of the provisions of the C. S. Amendment Act, 1908, "Legal's" interpretation of those provisions does not necessarily prove, as his argument seems to imply, that the interpretation placed upon the provisions by the Sub-Committee is incorrect.

There is only one other point in "Legal's" letter which I will refer to, and that is his assertion that "Mr. Todd's one argument that they [Subdivisions A and B of the Second Division] do not [represent different kinds or degrees of employment] is, that Mr. Fisher stated in Parliament that the \$1,600 division point was merely to stop the incompetent." In making this assertion, "Legal," I presume quite unintentionally, does the Committee an injustice, for it only requires a reference to their Report to find that their argument upon this point was based entirely upon the "provisions of the Act," and the interpretation which they placed upon such provisions. I am quite aware that it is axiomatic that a statement as to the intentions of the framers of an Act is not evidence before a Court of Law as to the meaning of the provisions of such Act, but I would remind "Legal" that the Report of the Sub-Committee was not intended as an argument addressed to a Court of Law, but as an appeal to the Governor in Council, through the Administrator of the Act, for a more liberal interpretation of its provisions on the point under consideration; and the statement made by Mr. Fisher in Parliament was only added for the purpose of strengthening their argu-

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ment, by shewing that their interpretation of this provision of the Act was strictly in accordance with the intention of the Government in framing such provision, as described by the Minister of Agriculture who had charge of the Bill in the House of Commons, and therefore spoke with authority as to its provisions.

Yours,
WALTER TODD,
Chairman of Sub-Committee.

HOUSECLEANING IN THE U. S. SERVICE.

Signs of Lively Interest in the Work of the Departments at Washington.

At the recent session of Congress a clause was inserted in the sundry civil appropriation bill appropriating \$100,000 for the expenses of a commission to inquire into the business methods used in the executive departments at Washington. The inquiry has now been set in motion. President Taft has engaged a number of accounting firms to begin the investigation. The methods now in use will be gone over thoroughly and reports made to the President as to how present methods may be improved. Newspaper accounts state that the President has in mind a number of important reforms in the government service, such as a retirement system based on the contributory annuity plan, a central purchasing agent for all government supplies, a scientific method of ascertaining the efficiency of all employees in the government service, the abolition of all unnecessary bureaus and positions, and the fixing of an age limit at which employees shall leave the service.

A suggestion made at a cabinet meeting just before the adjournment of Congress that a rider be attached to an appropriation bill so as to give heads of departments discretionary power to retire clerks is reported to have received at first the President's approval, but he later changed his

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mind, saying that he wanted to take final action in the matter when he took any action at all. Before leaving Washington, the President, as *The Civilian* has already reported, is said to have asked the treasury department for all data and figures on the question of retirement, with a view to making some specific recommendations on the subject in his annual message.

Passing the Time.—The Scotchman could not find his ticket. On the conductor's second round it was still missing. "What's that in your mouth?" he asked. Sure enough, there was the missing ticket. The conductor punched it and went his way. "Ah, we'el," said Sandy, in reply to his fellow passengers' banter, "I'm nae sae absent-minded as ye wad think. Yon was a vera auld ticket an' I was jist sucken aff the date." —Success.

"I think he'd like to join the civil service club, but his wife wouldn't hear of it."
"She wouldn't hear of it? Why, I know half a dozen men who would join our club if their wives wouldn't hear of it."

Athletics.

While the various cricket, baseball and lacrosse leagues have about finished their schedules for the season, the all-absorbing football is just getting under way. Every team is "arming" for the contests, and it looks as though the public were to be favoured with some high-class sport in this direction. The local teams of Ottawa College and Ottawa City appear to be in good shape, and it is the confident hope of all local enthusiasts that at least one championship may be brought to the Capital.

* * *

After winning the championship of Canada in the National Lacrosse Union, the speedy French-Canadian "Nationals," of Montreal, have followed the example of last year's champions, the Montreal team, and journeyed out to the Pacific coast in the endeavour to wrest the world's championship from the invincible New Westminster XII. The first of the two matches took place on Saturday last and resulted in a win for the western team by a score of 7 to 3. It looks as though the Minto Cup would remain on the banks of the Fraser. The Pacific coast season is much longer than that of the East, and of course the holders have some advantage in being on their own grounds, nevertheless all must admit that the national game of Canada has reached almost the acme of perfection out there.

* * *

The almost obsolete art of heel and toe walking has received a great impetus in the recent contests between the Canadian champion, George Goulding, and the English winner, Webbe. Everyone was pleased that the former showed his superiority. On Saturday the 8th Sept., at Toronto, 15,000 people cheered lustily when Goulding landed the one and three mile events. Goulding went the mile in 6.25, which no one can

appreciate until he has attempted to duplicate it. This is within two seconds of the world's record which was made 20 years ago by William Perkins, an Englishman.

Speaking of walking generally, it is one of the most beneficial of all exercises, and should be indulged in to a much greater extent than it is. The advent of the bicycle, and later of the automobile, added to the growing tendency to use the street cars, have almost relegated pedestrianism to the background. If every person, young and old, would make a point of "reeling off" at least 4 miles a day there would be far fewer doctors' bills to pay,—to say nothing of the saving in car fare.

* * *

Now that the necessary funds have been secured to enable the Ottawa Eight to take part in next year's Henley Regatta, various rumours as to the Henley rules have been rife. It has been stated that bona-fide amateurs, who as a means of livelihood are engaged in any manual trade, are debarred from competing. As a matter of fact, this rule will not likely shut out any of the local eight, but it goes to show how strict are the regulations governing the world's championship in rowing matters.

Another feature which will appear somewhat absurd to the average Canadian is the Henley regulation as to the costume of the competitors. The little sleeveless shirts and tights adopted by most of the oarsmen on this side the water are not permitted to be worn at the Henley Regatta. The athlete of the New World may regard these restrictions as effete and over-punctilious, but one must remember that the stewards of the Henley Regatta have a perfect right to frame regulations according to what they consider fit and proper, and that if the oarsmen of other parts of the world do not acquiesce they can — as suggested by Father Vaughan — "lump it."

* * *

'Tis a pity that Canada has no

candidate in sight for the Diamond Sculls, the emblem of the championship in the singles at Henley. If the writer's memory is correct, Scholes of Toronto is the only Canadian who ever captured this event. I imagine Ten Eyck, the trainer of the victorious Ottawa Eight,—and who is regarded as almost a Canadian,—was once represented at Henley by his son Edward Hanlan Ten Eyck (that name is Canadian at least) who handily "walked away" with the coveted singles.

* * *

It is doubtful if Canada (or for that matter any other country) has ever produced an athlete, male or female, so many-sided and versatile as Miss Mabel Thompson, of St. John, N.B. If it were not that she is a lady, one would be tempted to state the number of years that she has been before the public. Suffice it to say that for five consecutive years she won and defended the Ladies' Singles Golf Championship of Canada. The writer can recall the time when Miss Thompson was a member and a regular player with the St. John Cricket Club. This is a game which few ladies have ever taken up, yet she has been known to actually take part in matches. Then she was an excellent hockey player, but now she is found competing last week in the Lawn Tennis Championship of the Maritime Provinces — and she reached the finals, being beaten by an ace in the last set. Miss Thompson, *The Civilian* looks towards you.

* * *

No matter to what game or country one turns, Canadians are found excelling. In the national game of the United States, a French-Canadian now leads the batting list. Napoleon Lajoie of the Cleveland Club, for the fifth season, is on top of the batters. This man who originally drove a cab in Montreal, is now said to be getting \$6,000 for the summer season. To remain in the major leagues a man must eschew all dis-

sipations, and as this is Lajoie's tenth season it shows what careful training and correct living will accomplish.

* * *

Next Saturday will witness a local event of much interest, viz., the five mile club race for the Rosenthal trophy. This is the sort of race which brings out the real stamina of the competitors and should be excellent training for a host of aspirants for football honours.

The Civil Service Student.

Orthography.

As candidates at civil service examinations know, spelling is not, except in a very few cases, tested by actual dictation. Dictation is now only resorted to when the number of candidates is few; but, in the majority of examinations, spelling, which is a *bête noir* to so many, is tested by means of a passage of prose with certain of the words mis-spelt. The reason for adopting this method was to do away with the many complaints under the old system, for as most of the popular examinations are held at several different centres, it was often found either that words would be differently dictated at certain centres; or very frequently the large size or poor acoustic properties of the examination room made it impossible for all candidates to hear so well as could have been wished; or again, sometimes the pronunciation of the examiner was faulty or indistinct; all these things obviously bore very hardly on many of the competitors, and the present Orthography Test was substituted, as, although not a perfect test of spelling, it does, at all events, give equal chances to all.

Many candidates, however, find difficulty in scoring full marks in this subject, as they ought to do, and this is most frequently due to lack

of sufficient and proper practice, for it is essential that the student should be familiar with the many pit-falls the papers in Orthography present. For the practice necessary a useful book for students is "Skerry's Examination Papers in Orthography," which contains 28 examination papers in this subject, including specimens set at various examinations in the British civil service.

* * *

Test Paper in Orthography.

(Paper set at Examination for Male Sorting Clerk and Telegraphists, May, 1910.)

Time allowed, half-an-hour.

[Copy the whole of the following passage. Correct all the misspellings, but make no change except in spelling.]

Our teachers temper was unsertan. He had a cheery face, a red nose, a cappital fiddle, which did duty at many a country wedding, a head in which sleapt Latin quotashuns and Scotch proverbs, and a hand that did a great deal of the clarking required in the parrish. We always wellcomed any of those weeks when he was invited to a wedding; he was so much less moroase and sometimes positively jockular. He encouraged us to love animals, and at odd times a pet lamb or superanuated collie would be in waiting at the school door, the latter often barking lustily when the parting hymn announced dissmisal.

Spring and Autumn were jolly times for us, for in the former we found out nests and in the latter season we rejoiced in wild fruit. The curlews came back to the hills towards the end of February, and from that time onwards the insidents of bird life became in-tresting. Great promoshun awaited us when our years were suffishantly advansed to allow us to assist in the lambing season. April caught us at work and we went on until May. Sometimes we had to scrape the dead lambs from under the snow, and assist the mothers with out milk flasks and all our medecines.

* * *

Concerning Penmanship.

From a booklet on "The Secret of Perfect Handwriting," by H. N. Broadbent, a London, Eng., teacher,

whose system, says a reviewer, "although a novel and unusual one, contains no quackery, but is soundly based on scientific principles":—

"Handwriting is the most common vehicle of non-lingual communication, and pen and ink still largely remain the means by which events and transactions are recorded. These facts necessitate that handwriting should be distinctly legible to the one who reads, and to the one who writes there should be perfect ease and speediness in execution. Despite the many mechanical devices which are deemed necessary to the rapid and accurate conduct of business in this twentieth century, good legible handwriting is a worker's most valuable asset. To many professions, it is absolutely necessary, and the inferior writer suffers a great disability. In all branches of the civil service, the Commissioners lay great stress on legibility, regularity, neatness, and speed. Perfect penmanship opens the door to great possibilities, for a really good writer is rarely to be met with, but there are a thousand employers who want him when he is available. Hitherto, all orthodox methods of teaching handwriting have been based upon the theory that practice gives proficiency, but that this has all along been a delusion is proved by the fact that so very few ever become adepts in the use of the pen."

STAMP SELLING BY MACHINERY.

Fifty automatic stamp sellers have been received from England, and will be set up at the busiest points in the larger cities.

Each machine handles stamps of one and two-cent denominations. The front of the box displays two vertical plates, each of which contains coin and stamp slots so designed as to admit the thumb and finger of the purchaser.

To obtain a two-cent stamp, you insert in the upper left-hand slot two Canadian cents, one after the other. To obtain a one-cent stamp, you insert in the upper right-hand slot one Canadian cent. Immediately a genuine coin is inserted the desired stamp protrudes about three-quarters of its length from the indented slot. A slight pull by thumb and finger then disengages it from the roll inside the box.

Inside the machine the stamps are adjusted in rolls of 1,000 on small wooden cylinders. The insertion of a coin, causing the roll to revolve less than an inch, advances the first stamp through the slot, while the next is held back by a row of pins which fit into the perforations.

The insertion of any coin smaller than a one-cent piece has no effect.

ADDRESSING NEWSPAPERS.

By *Garrett O'Connor.*

One of the greatest trials of the railway mail clerks and of the Post Office Department generally, is the multiplicity of defective addresses on newspapers, books, circulars, etc. Strange to say, the general public is not so much to blame as the publishers, or a portion of them — for they do not all offend, there are good and bad. The desirable form of address, according to a high American authority, is large type, not too crowded, shiny black ink and a straw-colored paper. Many newspapers and magazines, in cities and towns, are addressed according to the ideas of the authority whom we quote. It is a pleasure to the clerks to handle these publications, for the addresses are always placed in the most desirable position on them, and the eye finds them without trouble. But, on the other hand, where publishers use very small, old, dirty, type, badly crowded, the address labels very small and of all colors, mostly undesirable, the clerks strain their eyes, lose valuable time at sortation, and are most liable to mistake a blurred address for some thing else. When a sack of matter is emptied on a sorting table, on a dark day, or where lamps are not very good, or car windows not clean, each paper or magazine lying just as it falls when the sack was shaken out, it can be readily seen, where so many addresses are blurred, upside down, faint, small typed, crowded, etc., that quick sortation is impossible, if accuracy (which is most necessary) is desired. Publishers of country papers and small city papers often offend. The large dailies and weeklies are generally clearly addressed, though never *too* clearly or *too* carefully.

Ye Gods! but the eyes are weary after they have deciphered the addresses on a wagon load (not uncommon) of miscellaneous papers!

Some publishers, who should know better, place addresses lengthwise on newspapers, and then three-parts cover them with wrappers, or altogether, so that every paper handled has to have part of the wrapper torn off to disclose the full address. A dirty-red address label, and small, old, inky type, is another abomination.

There is a machine called an addressing machine. It is intended to do good work, but much of it is so faint, blurred or rubbed, that one has to take two or even three looks at an address before being sure what it is.

I wonder will some publisher, having seen this "growl," take the matter up at the next convention of newspaper men? I wonder when the very important matter *is* taken up, if it will be deemed of sufficient importance to inspire publishers to adopt, for their own benefit and the benefit of their readers, and the benefit of the Post Office authorities, who try so hard to hasten publications to their correct destinations, a uniform label, clearly and cleanly printed on straw-colored paper and placed in a uniform position on all matter sent through the mails?

I miss my guess very much if our progressive Postmaster General and staff would not welcome such action on the part of publishers, and give them expert advice on the subject.

A Precaution.—Those citizens of Milwaukee who are of German extraction, like many of their fellow countrymen elsewhere, greatly esteem sauerkraut as a food staple. On one occasion a Milwaukee German was speaking of the high price of cabbage. "I dell you," said he, "dese cabbages is awful in brice dis year, me und vife put up six, seven, eight barrels of sauerkraut every year—but ve can't dis year. Dem cabbages dey cost toc much."

"You put up some sauerkraut, Hans, didn't you?" asked a friend:

"Oh yes — two or dree barrels maybe — just to haf in de house in case of sickness."
—Brooklyn Life.

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