# VOL. III

DECEMBER 16th, 1910

No. 17

# A Word to Correspondents.

Considering the general character of the work of the civil service, it is not to be wondered at that the service should include a large proportion of men endowed with the gift of writing readable English. There are many who, had their talents not been obtained for the direct service of the State, would have secured for themselves a respectable, and in some cases a distinguished, position in the journalistic world. Their transference to official spheres, however, occurring at an impressionable period, almost invariably produces a strong modification of such gifts. In many instances it is to be feared that the talent may be modified out of existence, dying through inanition resulting from its restricted opportunities for exercise. Persons who deal with forms are frequently inclined to think in forms, and their consequent lack of occasion for the use of style eventually produces the inability to cultivate it.

In spite of many such cases, however, a large proportion of officials retain their gifts of expression. These are not the men who acquired their accomplishment of forming grammatical sentences at college, but in whom the ability to write clearly and well arose from the development of natural gifts. They possess the faculty of marshalling their thoughts in order and sequence, and setting them down in proper language.

How, then, with such a reserve of literary potentiality, is civil service journalism to overcome those characteristic defects which serve to keep it from the higher levels of the art? The answer is that the journalism of depend on united action, based on the service must avoid the vices of the recognition of a common objec-

the amateur. With few exceptions, its exponents lack the training and experience which change a mere "writing man" into a journalist. But breadth of mind, the recognition of diversity in opinion, the correct estimation of expediency and of importance in facts, the renunciation of omniscience and infallibility, the avoidance of personalities, the perception of a common purpose, are qualities which are necessary if we would see sweeter and more wholesome fruit than can be gathered from the average civil servant who writes to The Civilian to-day. In the moulding of opinion the tools of art must never be abandoned for the unadaptable and useless weapons . of strife; the brush of criticism become the bludgeon of abuse; or the palette-knife of irony be surrendered for the stilleto of sarcasm.

If some of our correspondents were humoured, this paper, instead .of being a worthy section of the journalistic art, would become a monument of violent and fruitless discord. Throughout many pages we receive. the frequent failure to recognize the common aims of the service is all too obvious. A large proportion of its matter falls into the category of mere recrimination. There are some who have never written us a line save to blame or condemn. There is a crying need for unity-unity of method, unity of endeavour, unity of purpose,-yet the cry seems still to inhabit the wilderness. There is a need for fact, yet fancy serves as currency for argument.

Surely it is time for the service to realize how vitally its fortunes tive and a generous acknowledgment of the claims of others. Recriminations are the most barren resources to which pens can be reduced, and to their prevalence may be ascribed the slenderness of the results accruing from many ambitious campaigns waged in past years. Let these unworthy and unfruitful means be abandoned, and civil service opinion will attain in its expression to its proper level. The words of the Augustan philosopher are as true to-day as in the golden age of Roman literature: *Scribendi recte sapere est principium et fons*—"The essential principle and origin of all good writing is to think justly."

# Second Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission of Canada.

# The following Extracts embody the gist of this Report, which is one of universal interest to Civil Servants.

The administration of the Civil Service Amendment Act during the second year of its operation has afforded a better basis for judging of its normal operation and of its capacity to meet the varying needs of the Government Service. The rapid development of the country in practically every branch of national interest has necessitated a corresponding expansion in the Dominion Civil Service. This has involved the appointment of many new clerks and the promotion of a considerable number of those already in the service.

In the course of the past year the Commission held two general competitive examinations for the Second and Third Divisions of the Inside Service, one in November, 1909 and the other in May, 1910. - Previous to these examinations, the heads of the various departments furnished the Commission with the number of clerks in these divisions likely to be required during the following six months. A public notice of the examinations was published in the *Canada Gazette* two months previous to the holding of them.

The numbers of candidates for the examinations of November, 1909, were twelve for the Second, and one hundred and sixty-eight for the Third Division. For those in May, 1910, there were thirty-eight candidates for the Second, and two hundred and seventy-one for the Third Division. As the result of these examinations, for the Second Division nine were successful in November and twenty-nine in May, while for the Third Division, forty-five were successful in November and seventy in May. Practically all of these have been appointed either to permanent or temporary positions.

The Commission held, from time to time, in the course of the year, special competitions for various positions, requiring professional or technical knowledge and experience, which could not be tested by the ordinary examinations. These positions were duly advertised in the *Canada Gazette*, the advertisements setting forth the educational and technical requirements and the nature and length of experience required on the part of the applicants.

Other appointments of a professional or technical nature, to the number of twenty-six, seven in the First Division and nineteen in the Second Division, were made without open competition. These appointments were made on the nomination of the departments under the authority of section 21 of the Civil Service Amendment Act.. However, nearly one-half of those appointed in this manner were selected after consultation with the Commission.

During the year there were two hundred and seventy-eight appointments for temporary employment. All but four of these were in Subdivision B of the Third Division, the four others being in Subdivision B of the Second Division.

There were forty-nine appointments to lower grade positions, such as messengers, porters, packers, &c. Of these, thirty-one received permanent appointments and eighteen temporary employment.

#### SUMMARY.

The total number of new appointments to the service during the past year may be summarized as follows:----

In the three divisions of the Inside Service, one hundred and ninety-one permanent appointments were made. Of these, eight were in the First Division, seventy-six in the Second Division, and one hundred and seven in the Third Division. There were also two hundred and seventy-eight appointments to temporary positions and forty-nine appointments to lower grade positions. The total number of appointments for the Inside Service during the past year was five hundred and eighteen.

# EXAMINATIONS FOR OUTSIDE SERVICE.

In addition to the regular and special examinations for the Inside Service, the Commission held two semi-annual qualifying examinations for the Outside Service.

Hitherto, no part of the Outside Service, beyond the holding of the qualifying examinations, has been brought under the general terms of the Civil Service Amendment Act. Hence the Commission has as yet no part in the appointments and promotions for the Outside Service.

#### PROMOTIONS.

During the past year, two hundred and two certificates of qualification were issued for promotions from one grade of the service to another. Of these promotions, ninety-three were from B to A of the Third Division, one from A of the Third to B of the Second Division, sixty-one from B to A of the Second Division, thirty from A of the Second to B of the First Division, and seventeen from B to A of the First Division.

It may be observed that these promotions, though based upon merit, were not necessarily made by competitive examinations. At the same time, no person was promoted without previously obtaining a certificate of qualification from the Commission. This gave the Commission an opportunity to verify, in concert with the chiefs of the departments, the relative merits of the persons recommended. It is to be borne in mind that in matters of promotion, the Commission has to take into account both theoretical and practical qualifications.

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It may be mentioned, in regard to the single promotion from the Third to the Second Division, that the Commissioners and the government are considering this important question with a view to arriving at an equitable solution.

#### SUGGESTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

**Special Salary Increases.**—Under Article 33 of the Civil Service Amendment Act, where the qualifications required for the performance of the duties of the position are of an exceptional character, on the original appointment of a clerk provision is made for adding a certain amount, not to exceed five hundred dollars, to the minimum salary of the grade to which he may be appointed. In the case, however, of appointments to the Third and Second Divisions, in a number of cases it may not be possible to determine, a the time of appointment, whether the successful candidates have the exceptional qualifications required for the positions in question. In many cases this can be adequately determined only after a year or two of experience. Yet, under the law as it stands, it is then too late to increase or diminish the initial salary, according to the practical capacity shown by those appointed.

Again, in a still larger number of cases, the duties of a clerk who shows exceptional ability, particularly in B of the Second Division, may be enlarged in range and quality within a comparatively few years after his appointment. This may be due either to the development of new functions in connection with the work assigned to him, or he may be entrusted with a higher grade of work than that assigned to him on entering the service. In such cases, after a clerk has once entered the service, the only method provided for in the Act by which he can be adequately remunerated for the increased importance and responsibility of his work, is by promoting him to the next higher grade in the service. In the case, however, of the majority of such clerks who enter the service in Subdivision B of the Second Division at eight hundred dollars, this would mean an increase, within a few years, to double that salary, \$1,600 being the minimum salary of Subdivision A of the Second Division. The present alternative, therefore, is to permit such a clerk to remain in the service for say eight years before he can rise to a salary of \$1,200, or to promote him at one stroke to a salary of \$1,600. Some departments inclined to the first horn of the dilemma, others to the second. In the first case, substantial expenditure is entailed on the department. It would appear advisable, therefore, by a suitable amendment of section 33, to provide that some intermediate salary, say \$1,200, should be introduced in at least Subdivision B of the Second Division, to meet the requirements of such cases as those referred to. This would also enable the very reasonable purpose of Article 33, as at present framed, to be secured in a more equitable manner and in the best interests of the service.

Salary Anomalies on Changing Grades.—Another difficulty in connection with the operation of the new Act has been brought to the attention of the Commission during the past year. The salaries of lower grade employees are the same, and subject to the same annual increases as those of clerks in Subdivision B of the Third Division. When, therefore, a messenger or porter has entered the service at \$500 and has been three years in it, he will receive a salary of \$600, but, should he possess sufficient ambition and industry to prepare himself for the Third Division examination and should he prove a successful candidate, instead of entering the Third Division at a salary of \$600, he must enter at the minimum of the Division, which is \$500. Thus, the net reward of his industry and ambition in preparing himself to become a more efficient eivil servant is a reduction of \$100 in his salary. In other words, he will require two years additional time in the higher grade of the service to recover his former income. An equal or even greater hardship is involved in passing from Grade A of the Third Division to Grade B of the Second Division, by means of the competitive, as distinguished from the qualifying examination. In Grade A of the Third Division, the clerk at a salary of from \$900 to \$1,200, after preparing himself for the full competitive examination for the Second Division and proving to be a successful candidate, must enter the higher division at \$800. Thus, in consequence of his industry and ambition in establishing his superior qualifications, he is required to sacrifice from \$100 to \$400, according to his length of service. In other words, it will require him to spend from two to eight years in a higher branch of the service before he recovers the salary which he formerly received.

Assuredly there could have been no intention, in passing the present Act, that such injustices should result from its normal operation. These anomalies should certainly be remedied, and this could be accomplished by the same alteration in the Act as that recommended in connection with the previous suggestion regarding section 33 of the Civil Service Amendment Act.

The Appointment of Sorters, Packers and Porters.—The Commission is of the opinion that the appointment of sorters, packers and porters, in the lower grades, should be made by competitive examinations. The Commissioners are well aware that this method of appointment might not be practicable as regards the positions of messengers, inasmuch as the heads of departments may sometimes require from such employees special qualifications, but they believe that such is not the case with the other positions and that competitive examinations would be more satisfactory to the public and the candidates.

Special Assistance From Civil Servants.—The Commissioners desire to submit that some provision should be included in the Act which enable them to remunerate such of the civil servants whose services they may from time to time deem essential to the proper discharge of their duties in the general or special examinations. They fully recognize the wisdom of the government in curbing and prohibiting any distraction from official duties; but, at the same time, the Commission is frequently under the necessity, in the public interest, of using the official knowledge of a number of civil servants in the higher divisions. For this reason, the Commission is of the opinion that a reasonable compensation should be allowed for such service; otherwise these officials might very properly decline their good offices, as there is no statute to oblige them to give such assistance to the Commission.

Appendices to the report contain the text of the C. S. Acts and Regulations, Lists of Appointments and Promotions, Text of Examination Papers, &c.

"I dunno as we do have so much to do in the winter as in the summer," said Abimalech Clovertop to the commercial traveller with whom he had fallen into conversation at the country store. "An' vit, although the winter is our restin' spell, we manage to keep considdable busy. You get up at from three-thutty to four in the mornin' an' scun out to your barn an' milk fo-teen to fifteen cows, and' strain that there milk into cans an' git it to the railrioad station three miles away before breakfast, an' then mebbe you cut cord-

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wood all fo-noon an 'put up ice all artenoon, an' feed an' water thutty or forty head o' stock, an' turn to at night an' milk ag'in an' feed an' bed down all the critters by lantern light, an' git ready for a good start in the mornin' an' chore around until bedtime.....You do all that, an' it keeps you considdable busy, even in the wintertime when there ain't much doin' on a farm. Still, it's in the summer time that you have to reely hustle to make farmin' pay. Then you air busy."

-Puck.

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THE EDITORS,

THE CIVILIAN,

P. O. Bex 484, Ottawa

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

# Ottawa, Dec. 16th, 1910

# A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE IN A NUTSHELL.

Principal Jowett's eleven maxims have been called the "Balliol Scheme of Life," and many an Oxford man has used them with advantage. They will serve equally well for the readers of this journal and the class it appeals to. Jowett, in this group of "Maxims for Statesmen and Others," summed up his practical philosophy of life — and he was one of the wisest philosophers of his day. Here are his eleven sayings of power:

- 1. Never quarrel.
- 2. Never explain.
- 3. Nover hate.
- 4. Never fret.
- 5. Never disappoint.
- 6. Never fail.
- 7. Never fear.
- 8. Never drudge.
- 9. Never spare.
- 10. Never tell.
- 11. Never detract.

It is obvious that any statesman carrying out these rules must infallibly be great. It is just as obvious that any "others" who follow them will be living toward success. Lord Curzon, whose rise has been remarkable, and Mr. Asquith, are both credited in England as living by these eleven maxims, and the "Balliol spirit" is known in many quarters through lesser examples.

Two of them, perhaps—numbers 2 and 9-are suitable for statesmen only. In ordinary life many must and ought to explain seeming mistakes, and where public affairs are not involved ought to spare those who are in the wrong. The rule. "Never drudge," is one of the best. The man who puts full spirit into every task and refuses to consider anything as drudgery, is bound to rise. The man who neither quarrels nor detracts, who frets at nothing, who refuses to hate anybodyhe is embodied power, for he has conquered the worst possible obstacles in his own career. A sound philosophy of life lies in these twentytwo words-and any person, anywhere, can use them to advantage.

#### LETTER CARRIERS PETITION THE GOVERNMENT.

Messrs. A. McMordie, Toronto, and R. Guy, Hamilton, representing the Letter Carriers' Association of the Dominion, waited recently on Dr. Coulter, deputy postmaster general, with several matters of importance to their organization. The postmen are asking that the proposed Superannuation Act as it affects them be applicable after twenty-five years' service and at the age of fifty-two, instead of at 65 and 70 as is intended. They also asked the deputy that changes be made in the uniforms, so as to allow lighter clothes and a lighter helmet for summer wear. Consideration was promised to the requests.

# The Garnishment of Civil Servants' Salaries.

The *Free Press* the other day, commenting in a special editorial on Mr. Beauparlant's Bill to render civil servants salaries subject to attachment for debt, said:

"The Free Press believes that every self-respecting civil servant will be in favor of the principle of this proposal and it ventures to express the hope that the Civil Service Association will pass a resolution in favor of the passage of the bill. The business men of Ottawa have respect for the majority of the civil servants, for they are, for the most part, honourable men, but they have black sheep in their ranks, men who do not pay their bills, who never intend to pay their just dues, and whose failure to do their duty as men and as citizens easts a reproach upon the whole service. Why then should not the honest men in the service place themselves on record as in favor of this barrier to the collection of debts from those who take advantage of their present privilege to avoid their duties as men and as citizens? We have had civil service reform in the matter of appointments to the service. Let us now extend that principle a little further and place the civil servant upon the same footing as the ordinary man in the payment of his just dues?"

We have no unfavorable comment to offer concerning several of the individual statements contained in the above. But we think its general viewpoint is based on a misunderstanding.

The exemption of civil servants' salaries from garnishment is not a "privilege" of civil servants; it is a "privilege" of the government —a provision primarily designed to protect the government from a very potent source of annoyance and embarassment, namely, that of semi-responsibility for the financial status of its many thousands of employees. It is to the government and not to the civil service, therefore, that the *Pree Fress* should address its appeal.

What is the situation as between civil servants ordinarily and the traders of the community? The average civil servant is a man of fair to good salary. Emphatically he is a man whose pay is sure. His trade, therefore, is a consideration. His difficulty is not to get credit, but to avoid credit. It is a common experience for a civil servant who runs a bill to find that his dealer does not object to his contracting a moderated sized debt provided he will continue his trade. "Pay the account or increase it," seems to be the principle that many a civil servant has forced on him by the retailer.

Now, it is a well known fact that large employers of labour everywhere will not "stand" for an employee whose private affairs are thrust upon its consideration. Let a workman of the G.T.R. have his wages garnisheed a couple of times and he will soon get notice to quit. The G.T.R. can enforce such a policy, but the government desires to engage its help on a more or less permanent basis. The government wants no such situations on its hands as an employee on the street financially and still on the work-roll of a department.

There is, moreover, a good deal of exaggeration rife as to the injustice of the present system to the merchants. Garnishment at the best is not a weapon that the average merchant counts on using. Moreover, he has at present a perfectly efficient remedy otherwise. He can summon his civil servant debtor before the Division Court and

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#### The Garnishment of Civil Servants' Salaries.—Continued.

obtain therefrom a judgment ordering the debtor to discharge the debt by monthly payments. If the debtor refuses to obey he can be jailed for contempt of court, which is surely a sufficiently drastic remedy. It is not one that is likely to be necessary.

One point, however, The Civilian wishes to make clear. The civil service has no interest in the present situation from the standpoint of "privilege." It would be an unmeasured gain so far as the service is concerned if all such exceptional conditions were abolished. They merely serve at present as a basis for all sorts of Even the Free Press, whose intentions absurd and harmful attacks. we are sure are in the present instance friendly, speaks, as it were unconsciously, of "black sheep" as a sort of civil service institution, and of the immunity from garnishment as a sort of barrier behind which civil servants are skulking, whereas there is in point of fact no larger proportion of dead beats on the Departmental staffs than on the newspaper staffs of this city, and whereas a good many of those called "bad pay" are as much sinned against as sinning. In any case the civil service refuses to be branded as a class with the vices of the few, and is no more inclined to shoulder responsibility for these vices than is the legal profession to be ashamed because some lawyers are shysters. Why the civil service should be about the last of the professions to suffer from this silly habit of generalizing by the newspapers is one of those questions that must be left to the psychologist to answer. But we would conclude by reverting to the statement that this whole matter is one of governmental privilege, not one that the civil servant is primarily interested in, and that the Free Press through not recognizing that fact perpetuates an impression that is not just in all its bearings to the civil service.

# Regulations governing the admission of Visitors to the De= partment of Militia and Defence.

## The Text of an Order which has been widely discussed in the Ottawa Departments and in the House of Commons.

On Dec. 1 the following regulations with regard to the Militia Department went into effect by order of the Minister:

1. Every officer, official or person employed in the department is liable to be challenged on entering or leaving and required to prove his identity. For this purpose, permanent passes will be issued to every one concerned, and these passes must be produced at any time if called for by the orderlies who will be stationed at the entrance.

2. In addition to the civil and military staff employed at headquarters, permanent passes will be issued to the following:— Senators, members of parliament, one representative of each newspaper, and officials of other departments (the deputy minister of each department to forward a list of those officials of his department to whom he wishes the privilege extended).

3. To all others desirous of visiting the department, temporary passes will be issued, which must be given up on leaving.

4. A visitor will note on the temporary pass his name, address, nature of inquiry, and name of official with whom an interview is desired. The pass will then be taken up to the officer or official concerned, who, if he desires to see the visitor,

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will initial the pass, and the visitor will then be shown up to him. After the in-terview is ended, the officer or official concerned must see that his visitor is attended to the exit by a messenger.

5. When visitors with temporary passes have been admitted to see an officer or official, and are referred by him to some other officer or official, or wish themselves to have a further interview elsewhere, the officer or official who first receives them is responsible for seeing that they are attended by a messenger.

6. Civilian officials below the rank of Division II A, and non-commissioned officers and men, will not be permitted to see visitors except in cases of extreme urgency, in which event, however, the permission of the head of the branch or division must first be obtained.

7. Officers, officials and other persons employed in the department will, on appointment to the department, be furnished by the deputy minister with a permanent pass.

8. Officers, officials and other persons employed in the department shall, on vacating their appointments, return their

passes to the deputy minister. 9. Visitors, other than those holding permanent passes, shall only be admitted between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. except by appointment.

10. The doors leading into the Department of Militia and Defence on the east side will be closed at 5 p.m. every week day except Saturday, when the hour of closing will be one o'clock p.m. Any person desiring admission to the department after those hours must use the west entrance, and upon showing to the policeman on duty his permanent pass, and furnishing satisfactory proof as to his right to enter the building after office hours, will be admitted by that officer.

#### EUG. FISET,

Colonel,

Deputy Minister, Militia and Defence.

Department of Militia and Defence, Ottawa, November 17, 1910.

# The Deputy Minister's Explanation.

An explanation of the regulations is contained in the following letter of the Deputy Minister:

Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, November 17, 1910. Dear Sir,-I am directed by the honourable the Minister to inclose a copy of regulations which have recently been passed, governing the admission of visitors to the Department of Militia and Defence during office hours, and which it is the intention to put into force on the 1st proximo, and to inclose, for your use, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of the regulations, a permanent pass for admission.

For many years a great deal of annoyance and interference with the public duties of the officials of the department have been caused by the unrestricted opportunities afforded the outside public to visit the employees upon private and personal matters and questions entirely foreign to the official duties imposed upon the working staff of the department, whose whole time belongs to the public. Although some care has been taken to protect the officials of the department, yet it has been found impossible to check, to any reasonable degree, the annoyances indicated above.

Money lenders, promoters, agents and canvassers of all kinds seem to easily find their way to the officials high and low.

These regulations have, therefore, been framed in order to permit the officials and employees of the department to perform their duties without unnecessary interruption. They will prove no barrier to those having official relations with the department.

I may add that these regulations are based upon regulations in force in the War Office, London, England.

Yours very truly, EUG. FISET,

Deputy Minister, Militia and Defence.

#### In the House of Commons.

The subject was recently brought up in the House, the following being some of the opinions expressed:

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That the regulation, being a new one, is entirely perfect at the outset, I will not pretend That the to say; that it will require some modification I must believe. It is intended to increase the efficiency of the department. In all departments, I believe,-at any rate in mine-after nearly 15 years experience, I am certain that a great deal of the time of the officials is wasted, and I want, if possible, to take steps to see that the time of the clerks is spent on their work. My hon. friend objects to the officials reading the 'Citizen' or his speeches in 'Hansard,' but he apparently would not object to loafers going in from the street and wasting the time of the officials. Tf he will reflect, I think he will agree with me that it is extremely undesirable that people, who have no direct business with the department, should go into it and take up the time of the clerks by gossiping to them during office hours. That is what we wish to prevent.

Mr. LEWIS. The crux of the whole matter is in the last clause of the letter: 'I may add that these regulations are based upon regulations in force in the War Office, London, England.' Now, Sir, I strongly oppose, and I believe I shall always strongly oppose, unless circumstances materially change, the importation into this country of regular militarism.

Mr. HUGHES. I think there is something radically wrong with the head of a department who cannot control the officials or servants under him, and prevent them from allowing these people to come in and take up their time. If I were head of a department I would endeavour to ascertain the business of my clerks and to see that they were kept at work. It is undignified for a member of parliament to have to carry a pass to any department of the public service at Ottawa. I shall not do it.

Mr. EMMERSON. What I object to is that you should single out any one or two departments of the government of Canada and hedge them around with a sort of divinity which makes them unapproachable. If there are any good reasons for the establishment of these regulations in that department they are good for every department of the government. The chief ground of my objection is that we are to have hereafter a Naval Department, and I suppose they will hedge themselves around with a sort of divinity, as the Militia Department has done. I consider the regulations objectionable, and I believe that throughout this country they will be so considered. If it is necessary to take steps to prevent hucksters and promoters and men of that class interfering with the work of departments, it seems to me that it would be possible to do that, but the method should be entirely different from the one adopted by the Department of Militia and Defence.

## THE INCOME TAX QUESTION AT TORONTO.

Certain judges and other officials of the Dominion government in Toronto have failed in an appeal taken against having their incomes being assessed for municipal taxes. Consequently they will have to pay income taxes in the same way as other citizens. This was finally decided on Nov. 22 when Mr. H. H. Drayton, K.C., chairman of the court of revision, delivered the following judgment, which was concurred in by the other members:

"The appellant herein relied upon the case of Leprohon vs. City of Ottawa, as establishing the law that salaries of appointees of the government of Canada are exempted from taxation, and such was undoubtedly the case so long as Leprohon vs. Ottawa remained not overruled.

"The whole question came up in the case of Abbott vs. City of St. John, and what has to be decided is, does this case overrule Leprohon vs. Ottawa? If it does, then the salaries of Dominion appointees are assessable in the municipality in which they reside. After the best consideration I have been able to give to this case. I feel bound to conclude that it does overrule Leprohon vs. Ottawa, and that under it the appellant's case must fall, and the appeal be dismissed. I refer especially to the language used by Duff, J., at page 619.

"Indeed, although Leprohon vs. Ottawa has not been expressly overruled the grounds of it have been so thoroughly undermined by subsequent decisions of judicial courts that it can (I speak of course with highest respect for eminent judges who took part in it) no longer afford a guide to the interpretation of the B. N. A. Act.

"I have not overlooked the fact that this is the first time that the official incomes of the judges of the supreme court are made subject to taxation and that the policy of administration, with a view of securing absolute indifference in tribunals, at one time went to the extent of disqualifying the jurors who happened to be ratepayers in cases where municipalities were parties. It is also true that Toronto is fixed by statute as the place where justices are obliged to reside and that the local legislature has augmented the salary of the judges paid by the Dominion on the ground of their insufficiency. All these questions are, however, outside my consideration, and I feel bound to follow the authority before referred to and disallow the appeal."



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# At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

## The Passing of Silas.

My friend Carter is in the Department of Militia and Defence. He is not General Carter, or expressman. In fact, he does not belong to the Headquarters Staff at all. His name is pronounced as it is spelled, with a slight accent on the cart, and he wears rubbers, not goloshes.

I have been accustomed to call on Carter at his office every now and again, this being made possible through an overlapping of our luncheon hours. (Please. note I do not use the barbaric form "lunch"). Well, as I was saying, or about to say, this is all a thing of the past. There are new rules in force, I suppose they call them canons in military circles, which make it as difficult for an ordinary civilian to enter the Woods Building as if he were trying to edge his way into the Privy Council chamber in the disguise of a farmer's delegate from Saskatoon. Admittance is not impossible, however, and I will tell you how I managed it once.

It was noon of a clear, frosty day in December, 1910, when I pegged my way along Slater street towards the Militia Department. Departing somewhat from the novelistic method, I will spare you a recital of my thoughts and feelings on that occasion. Suffice it to say, it was just before the fifteenth day of the month and I wished to see Carter Nor will I on important business. engage your time in describing the architecture of the noble perpendicular pile in which the War Office of Canada is established. Suffice it

again to say that I knocked the ashes from my pipe on an historic piece of Boer ordnance and prepared to enter the building.

A clarion voice rang upon the frosty air. (Isn't it just the clear cheese that the month was December, that month of all months of the year when voices clarionize? Had it been June, or even March, I should be short of local colour, but my luck is sure with me this time.)

Once again. A clarion voice rang upon the frosty air.

"Who goes there?" and I beheld the sturdy form of a five-foot-two sentinel with his musket grounded on the door-mat.

"A friend," I replied, with wonderful presence of mind, which saved my life.

"Advance, friend, and give the countersign," came the clarion voice like an echo of the Siege of Quebec. I would rather be the owner of that voice than take Drummond and Arthabaska.

Was I nonplussed? Not I. I advanced and mumbled, "It looks like snow." The elarion voice responded, "You may proceed," and I moved forward to an inner door with a wicket in it. At this I was minded to knoek.

"Who knocks?" trilled a clarionet voice from the other side of the wicket. I was now within the steamheat belt and the shrillness of the calls were somewhat modified. But\_ again,—

"Who knocks?"

With a lucky remembrance of the ritual of the Knights of Carambo, of which I am a member, I replied, "A poor pilgrim in the weary ways of mortality who would learn the mysteries of your thrice exalted and irrefragable order."

There was a period of silent waiting and I was beginning to think I had made a mess of things, but the Voice at the Wicket again smote my ears.

"Has the weary pilgrim an S.P.O. from the D.O.C.?"

"The pilgrim has not," I replied, "but I can obtain an I.O.U., from the C.O.D.," determined that I should not be outdone in esoteric abbreviations, and was ready to strengthen this authority with a reference to the P.D.Q., but the door at that moment swung on its hinges and the clarionet voice softened itself to exclaim, "Welcome to our midst, poor pilgrim. Have you a bit of chewing on your clothes at all?"

I felt at home now with this Voice at the Wicket and lapsed for a while into the human language.

"What next?" I inquired of him. "The guy with the coal scuttle on his head will see to you," he replied, and expectorated through the grill work of the elevator shaft.

The Guy of the Scuttle was not long in coming. He had a striking resemblance to the caricatures of Emperor William and seemed proud of it, too. I was about to label him the German Scare, when he dropped an aspirate on my toe and I felt ashamed of my unexpressed insinuations.

"You are to wite in the 'all 'ere till your turn comes," he informed me; so I took out my pencil and note book (my custom always when I have time on my hands) and began to scribble. I began, but that was all, for in an instant my arms were pinioned from behind and the Kaiserean antitype stood glowering in front of me.

"'Ave you no regard for your life? At least you should 'ave respect for the regulations." "What have I done?" I exclaimed in great terror.

"Done? Are you not drawing a plan of the corridors?" he thundered. "Eavens knows but you might be making a sketch of the lift there. You must know, my man," (he called me "my man" and I felt that his fury was abating) "you must know that nobody is permitted to make drawings of a country's fortifications."

I explained to him that I was writing a sonnet on the reported decline in the price of pork. He picked up my note-book. When he read the opening line, "O that my tongue could grace this noble theme," only he read "grease" for "grace," he became calm again and loosed my bonds.

My turn came at last and I was ushered into the presence of the Commissioner of Passports. He was attended by a doctor, armed with his stethoscopes, and by a busylooking cropped-haired fellow to whom the Commissioner gave orders to see that I was searched.

Fortunately I had left my pencil on the floor of the corridor. That saved an hour. The details of the search would be tiresome to you. I have only to mention that my wooden leg came to grief in the course of the inquisition. It was at first bored with a gimlet, the test giving strong evidences of sawdust. The Commissioner called for a hatchet. I implored him to spare my limb. It was my stock in trade, my only visible means of support. was much attached to it, I told him, and could ill afford to buy a new one and a Christmas tree the same month. He was obdurate, except that he sent a messenger to the Naval Department for the loan of a temporary leg, which I was engaged, under a bond of indemnity, to return to that department alive or dead (it was made of lignum vitae I think) in the event of the fleet setting out for war.

As you might expect, my leg

did not contain dynamite, nitroglycerine, or even talcum powder.

"You never can tell theough," remarked the Doctor. "Our suspicions about the corpulence of that fat man who called last week were justified, and it needed strong hands on the stomach pump to remove the bomb he had concealed inside him."

I shuddered and asked what they did with the bomb.

"We buried it with him," the doctor replied, and proceeded to apply the stethoscope to my chest, after I had been relieved of my clothes.

He spoke about cardiac murmurs or something of that sort. He advised the Commissioner to spare me the third degree. The Commissioner gave assent and came down to the business in hand.

"Do you wish to see one of the officers?" he asked.

I said that I should like to have a few minutes' talk with Mr. Carter.

"Your name, sir?" he asked, taking a pen by the hilt.

"Silas Wegg."

"Do you spell it with two g's?" he asked, as he wrote.

"Yes, two g's and one e," I replied quickly, ready to be of service.

"One e! Why didn't you say so at first?" he snapped as he cut a letter off the name he had written. Then contemptuously, "One e indeed!" He has a hyphen in *his* name with an *e* at the end of each section, a man of ease in very sooth.

But this helped wonderfully, for he would be done with me when he found out how my name was spelled. The return of the messenger with the leg accelerated events. This was branded with the broad arrow, my bond of indemnity executed, and I was clothed in a long linen duster with a hood to match, which was drawn over my head. Thus accoutred, I was led to the elevator and taken to Carter's room.

Carter was not in his office. He was on leave, his chief said, or rather on furlough, to be exact. They led



me back to the Commissioner and removed the hood.

The Commissioner frowned when they told him that Carter was off duty.

"Why do you come here, sir," he exploded, "and put this staff to the worry and expense of conducting you to a man who is on furlough?"

I said nothing but bolted for the door, heedless of the fact that only a linen duster would shield me from the north wind and indecency. But the Commissioner intervened.

"Strip that man of his uniform and see that he wears his own accursed mufti."

The change was made and I was hurried by Sir Guy of the Scuttle to the Voice at the Wicket, who passed me with some kindness to the Clarion Voice at the outer door. I rushed past him and stumbled over the historic piece of Boer ordnance. The fall must have affected my head, for I was informed by Mr. Venus who rescued me from a snow bank that I called loudly on one Clara



# The Moman in the Service By "Frea Cannaiad."

#### "The Girl of the Golden Locks."

I well remember the day when we first saw our girl of the golden locks. Into our office, one December day, she came, wearing the proud smile of one who had rightly deserved her place. She sat down by the Eastern window, and went to work, unconscious of the glances of thirty pairs of eyes.

It is not an easy thing to enter our office. For many years of service, modified by the constant recollection of who you were and what your friends have been, contrive to win for one an indisputable prestige which neither strength of brain nor rate of speed, nor ambitious hope can conquer. It was different, though, with the girl of the golden locks. We all forgot to question her right of entry; we even forgot to ask, by covert questioning, her name. A new feeling took possession of us, a spirit of sadness seemed to mitigate our envy. For the golden sunshine knows no place within our time-darkened walls.

It was the Veteran who broke the silence. She arose and approached the new girl. "Whatever brought you in here," she said "you dear little girl of the golden locks?"

That was before the day of many changes—by reason of which the Veteran was moved from her cushioned chair by the grate fire over to the Eastern window, beside the girl of the golden locks. She found another new girl there, a little Irish maid, and yet another, an engaged girl. It made her seem so strangely out of place; for she is a

maiden lady, an old, old maid. They were very curious, those youngsters; at first they tried to find out how long it was since she had been at school, if she could remember Confederation and Riel's rebellion. And only the engaged girl kept her peace. She alone knew that age is no longer to be reckoned by years, but rather by depth of experience. She knew that the veteran was old. And when they would get tired, and would catch glimpses of years stretching hopelessly before them, they would press her more closely with their questionings. "Did she never weary of her years in the service. Had there been no romance in her life?" They were sorry for her in their hearts-poor thing.

So she told them many a story of what her days had been, of gay gallants who had ridden out of the forest and had ridden away again, of morbid scholars who had been shocked by her frivolity (all gone, alas!) and had passed her by, of everyone whom fact or fancy could conjure up. And only one name did she keep from them, one name which would come at times unbidden to her lips and never pass.

They seemed to be anxious to profit by the Veteran's experience, and besought her to give them some good advice in concrete form which would carry them beyond the crags. They were tired of general moralizings, tired of everything but one sure and certain formula. And so she told them, in trying to get to the truth, that there was one thing which they must avoid. "Beware," said she, "of women's gatherings, of local

councils, of temperance unions, of missionary societies, beware of them one and all. And above all, watch for your opportunity." And she would further specify and tell them her belief, that only on one occasion should a woman speak in public and that was when a motion for adjournment was in order. And at this point she would keep their attention one second longer, just to tell them how she had broken the rule and missed her opportunity. For on one occasion, the Veteran's aversion to public speaking had forbidden her rising to second the motion of adjournment. They could not go, and in the strife which followed, the Veteran had been elected speaker for the next occasion. And so she had made a public speech against her will, and gained for herself the name of a woman unfeminine, adrift from her sphere.

But I have been digressing. I set out to tell you how we lost our girl of the golden locks. There came times when periods of thoughtful silence seized her, when confidences were wont to be exchanged with the engaged girl, when an air of dignity bade her override the childish views of the little Irish maid. We knew that our girl of the golden locks had reached the realization of her dream days. But she would not tell them the name. They were too young, the little Irish girl and the Veteran. They had no part in the matter.

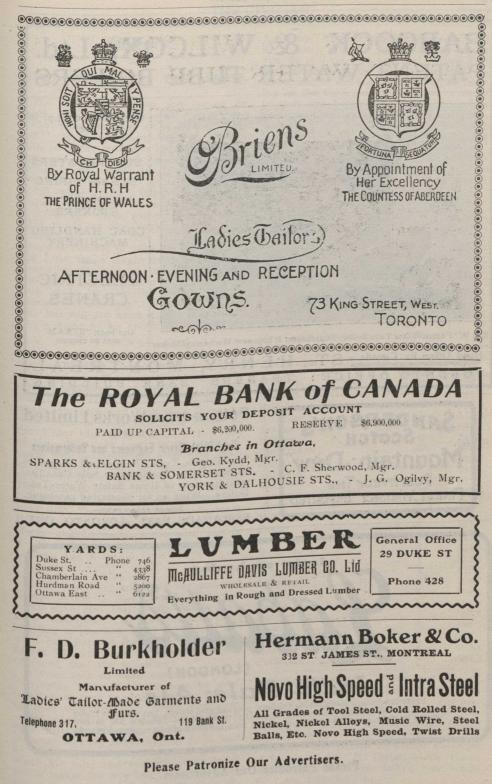
But they were soon to know. She invited them down one evening with their knitting to spend a few quiet hours. They had wended their way along the canal bank that cold wintry night, and were at her very door when a strange presentiment seized the Veteran. She begged the little Irish girl and the engaged girl to make excuses for her, to let her go home. To her entreaty they yielded and let her go. They thought it only the vagary of an old body with a queer heart, troublesome by spells. They did not know that the strange presentiment had told her, as if an infallible authority, that to the Veteran and to our girl of the golden locks there was only one name. And that name was the same.

How she got home that night the Veteran never knew. It was a cold night. with a queer sobbing wind, and a strange half-light over the sky. It seemed almost as if something were misplaced in the universe. It was dark within, too, and there was a great struggle which did not end with the night.

That was months ago. The conflict.is over now, never to be renewed. To-day the little Irish maid and the Veteran are alone. The engaged girl has been promoted, and the other one too. And the Veteran was the one who was the most enthusiastic over it. "No one deserved it more than she," she said, "dear little girl with her bright smile and gloriously radiant head—dear little girl of the Golden Locks."

## THE OTTAWA ESTIMATES.

The estimates for 1911-12 show under the heading of civil government an increase of \$209,874. This is made up for the most part of the ordinary statutory increases. In addition, provision is made for three new places in the Militia department, nineteen more in the Interior. sixteen more in the Customs, four more in the Agriculture, three more in the Railways, fourteen more in the Public Works, eleven more in the Mines and Geological Survey, two more in the Annuities branch, three more in the Labor, one more in the Insurance, two more in the Conservation Commission, and three more in the Civil Service Commissioner's office. Altogether this makes 78 additional. On the other hand, there is a reduction of one in Indian Affairs and one in External Affairs.





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# Athletics.

#### CIVIL SERVANTS ON THE ALLEYS.

The "possible" man has turned up again, this time in Toronto. Last year 'twas Winnipeg that claimed the "wizard." It is significant, however, that in both cases the reward is not allowed. The authentic Toronto City record for a single string is 290, made by Bert Moran in 1908. The cross alley record for Toronto is 725, made by Jack Booth in 1909. The highest score made in a five-man game is 3,033 for three games, single game 1,132, made by the Royal Riverdales of Toronto last year. The records for this season in Toronto is 2,883 for three games, and 1,052 for a single game. Individual cross-alley 674, single stringe 268. The best scores of the season in Ottawa have been made by Douglas, captain of the Custom Statistics in the C. S. League, who has 643 for cross-alley and 257 for single string to his credit.

The progress of the C. S. team in the Ottawa Bowling League will be watched with interest. The team representing the service consists of Payne, Stevens, Thomas, Reynolds, Allen, H. Shore, Edwards, Reardon and Douglas. Given an even break in luck, this team should be found near the top of the list at the close of the season. In many games civil servants will be found opposing each other as other teams have not been slow to gather up the cream of the C. S. talent. The Ottawas claim Hutton, the Guards Foster, the Y.M.C.A. Woodland, St. Patricks, Hill, Turcotte and Pender, Centrals, Hickey and Jordan, Nationals, Jobin, Morin and Lapointe, while with the O. A.A.C. will be found Raby, Baker, Howe, Lindsay and Kilgallin.

\* \* \*

Two weeks have not made any material change in the C. S. averages. The majority have held their own. While some have ''slumped,'' they still retain their standing in the C. S. ''500'' and look forward ever hopeful for better luck in the future. To all those that feel a bit discouraged, read the following:

\*

"When luck is dead against you and everything looks black, it does no good to falter or turn upon your track; it does no good bewailing the errors you have made, or counting all the byways in which your ball has strayed; it does no good insisting that the alleys were at fault, and he who blames the pin-boys is hardly worth his salt; and weeping never helps you or makes the way less rough, for tears are only water, and water's washy stuff. Brace up ! O weary bowler, brace up, and be a man! Though fortune sorely swats you, do still the best you can! Dame Fortune often tests us, to see how high we stack, and if she sees us weeping, or turning on the track, she sadly says: 'These bowlers are bargain counter goods; it's not worth while to show them the pathway from the woods!' but if we meet the ''strike split'' with courage bold and high, she guides us to the ''grooves'' where her record scores do lie. So do not weep or cuss when life seems void of hope, for tears are only water, and water's filmsy dope.''

The standing to Dec. 13th follows:-Won. Lost. Interior I. .. .. .. .. .. .. 6 P. W. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 6 1 6 2 5 2 4 4 3 4 4 Int. II. . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 4 2 6 5 1 1 5 1 Averages:-Games. Average. 592.4 561.3 558.2 Kilgallin ..... 550.3 Archambault ..... 1 546.1 6 540.4 Hutton .. .. .. .. .. .. 5 539.4 Clendinnen .. .. .. .. .. 538.2 7 6 534.5 5 531. 527.2 6 Allen ..... McKnight ..... 7 517. 514.2 6 514.1 7 513.6 512.5 508.7 8 Lindsay .. .. .. .. .. .. 6 508.3 5 507.4 507.3 7 506.5 505. 8 503.4 8 Patterson .. .. .. .. ..

Thirty-eight officers of the civil service, inside and outside, were retired during the calendar year up to November 21st. The payments in superannuation in that period totalled \$35,398. Will. McMahon, assistant King's printer, retired "to promote efficiency and economy," will receive an annual allowance of \$1,155. A. G. D. Taylor, of the House of Commons staff. gets \$1,814, and Achille Frechette, translator, \$1,952.

## OTTAWA ADVISORY BOARDS.

In addition to the list of boards already published in *The Civilian*, notice has been received of the following:

#### Department of Labour.

IIA, E. A. Thomas; IIB, R. G. Smith; IIIA, H. G. Andrews; IIIB, Miss E. L. Delaney; messengers, Joseph Lacelle; packers, W. P. Ainsborough; member of the Executive, 1910-11, F. J. Plant.

#### House of Commons.

The Advisory Board of the House of Commons Branch of the sivil service consists of Messrs. W. C. Bowles, D. L. Desaulniers, C. A. Matthews, A. G. Troop, J. Castonguay and George Smith. J. K. Foran is the representtive upon the Executive.

#### Railways and Canals.

Div. 1, Subdiv. "A," J. L. Payne; Div. 1, Subdiv. "B," C. W. Ross; Div. 2, Subdiv. "A," H. LeB. Ross; Div. 2, Subdiv. "B," R. S. Raby; Div. 3, Subdiv. "A," F. W. Addy; Div. 3, Subdiv. "B," C. P. Buckley; messengers, E. A. Pelletier. The representative on the Executive Committee will be C. E. Bleakney.

#### Militia and Defence.

1st Div. A, E. F. Jarvis; 1st Div. B, Frank Beard; 2nd Div. A, A. P. Deroche; 2nd Div. B, A. E. Watterson; 3rd Div. A, E. J. Boag; 3rd Div. B, W. E. Craig; messengers, F. W. Littlefield.

#### Trade and Commerce.

1st Div., Subdiv. A, Mr. Code; 1st Div, Subdiv. B, Mr. Warne; 2nd Div., Subdiv. A, Mr. Byrnes; 2nd Div., Subdiv. B, Mr. Bawden; 3rd Div., Subdiv. A, Mr. Wilson; 3rd Div., Subdiv. B, Mr. Heisler; messengers, Mr. Robertson. Mr. Ernest Green replaces Mr. Lewis on the Executive of the Association.

#### Post Office Dept.

1st Div. A, W. J. Glover; 2nd Div.

B, G. H. Hayes; 3rd Div. A, J. J. Bonner; 3rd Div. B. M. F. Goodwin; messengers, E. Snowdon. Elections to 1B and 2A have been deferred.

#### Dept. of Agriculture.

1B, W. J. Lynch; 2B, J. C. Macpherson; 2B, C. G. Brown; 3A, A. J. Pelletier; 3B, R. H. Field; messengers, J. Leafloor.

## Dept. of Public Works.

Messrs. A. G. Kingston, chairman; E. J. Smith, secretary; J. E. Marion, treasurer; C. H. Hunter, C. Baudry, J. A. Morin and Mrs. E. Lemoyne.

#### Dept. of Mines.

1A, Prof. John Macoun; 1B, W. W. Leach; 2A, A. Dickieson; 2B, G. G. Aitken; 3A, Robert Lyons; 3B, Miss Bentley; messengers, N. Gagné.

#### Auditor General's Dept.

1st Div., J. Gorman;; 2nd Div. A, A. H. Brown; 2nd Div. B, J. N. Tribble; 3rd Div. A, F. S. James; 3rd Div. B, Miss H. DeLury; messengers, H. Cottee. Mr. Stockton has been re-elected as representative for another year.

#### THE LOVERS' WALK.

THE MEMBER new to Ottawa

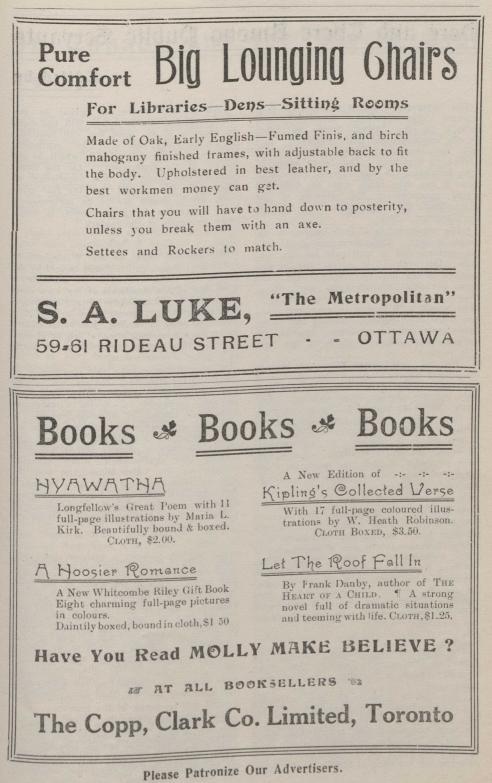
Is eager for the sights,

The waters of the Chaudière,

- The House of Commons lights, The Rockliffe pines so dark and tall,
- The busy Sparks Street shops, The waiters at the Rideau Club,

The street cars and the cops.

- But there's a higher joy than that These wonders may inspire.
- The Sappers' Bridge may cause a yawn, Of Rockliffe one may tire,
- But winding 'round the rocky Hill Is beauteous Lovers' Lane,
- The Member saunters through it once And then turns back again.
- They call the pathway Lovers' Lane, But seldom do we find
- The Youth and Maiden wandering there In wintry gales unkind.
- The Member wonders at the cause, The secret we may tell.
- It is reserved for great M.P.'s Who love their country well. —The Toronto News.



# Ibere and There Among Public Servants

The movement to secure pensions for government clerks appears to have received a setback in the United States to judge by the announcement that President Taft will not recommend the necessary legislation to Congress. The report seems to have heartened the opponents to superannuation if one may judge from the following which appeared in the columns of the *Pennsylvania Grit*, (no relation, we hope, to the Canadian Grits):

"The movement is of little interest to the people at large. The government clerk seeks his position and is well paid for his services. His work is not arduous and the perquisites of his position are generous. His hours are short, his vacations long. He is always under full pay, even when he is ill. Why should such a man be pensioned when his felow countryman, spending life under much more arduous conditions, has only the competency in old age which he has been able to save?

"The old soldier was pensioned because he yielded extraordinary service in time of emergency. The government clerk yields only ordinary service under ordinary conditions. He is the best paid, best treated clerk in the country, and this paper quite agrees with several of its contemporaries that 'there is less reason to pension him than there is thousands of agred and faithful citizens who have struggled all their ives to earn a livelihood and face old age without a competency.'"

At last the time has come when we can joyfully report to our readers that the tide of high prices has turned, that there is a distinct reaction in the cost of necessaries of life. According to a London telegram, Sir William Ramsay announces a severe cut in the price of radium from \$2,500,000 an ounce to only \$2,100,000 an ounce. If this drop continues a little longer we shall soon reach a point where every day-laborer can have his bit of radium.

The Postal World, the new organ of the Canadian Postmasters, believes that more flies are caught with sugar than with vine-gar:

\* \* \*

"We shall be glad at all times to receive suggestions from Postmasters and clerks for the improvement of the service, but wish it d'stincty understood that promiscuous abuse of officials has never yet resuted in any good being done either party, consequently our columns are not open to articles of this kind.

# Edited by

"We are well aware our action in declining articles of this nature will not meet the approval of all, some few still believing in the battering ram style of exhibiting grievances as the only way in which to get the ear of the department. On the other hand we may profit by the experience of others, who have found that the fair criticism, which should always be accompanied by a suggestion for improvement, is much more acceptable ot the readers."

\* \* \*

Mr. Bernard Shaw, in the 'Westminster': "In my opinion, fiction should be sold by the pound, as Bluebooks are. I attribute a good deal of the steadiness of my own market to the fact that I have always thoroughly understood that people have to lay in a household store of reading, just as they have to lay in a household store of tea or cheese, and that they expect four-and-sixpence worth of it to last a certain time.

"I should like to take this opportunity of informing my customers that my next volume will contain three complete plays and three prefaces comparable to Royal Commission Reports on subjects of universal interest. It will keep an average man of business in active reading for a fortnight, and will last the family fully a month; and it will bear reading over again once every eighteen months for life. Mr. Heinemann was the first publisher to grasp this fact, though it had long been familiar to every man of moderate means with a houseful of daughters all clamoring for something to read. Hence the loo,ooo-word novel."

\* \* \*

The legs of town postmen are obtaining a good deal of public attention in Great Britain lately. This is the result of the Postmaster-General's decision to allow the lettercarriers to leave the mails with the hall porters of flats in cases where accommodation on the lifts is refused to the postmen. There is no doubt that the change will be welcomed by the men, whose stair-climbing feats, however faithfully performed, were never enjoyed. Permission to use the lifts has usually been granted or withheld by the landlords of the premises, but whatever inconvenience is caused will be borne by the tenants.

The latter are naturally inclined to grumble, and draw invidious comparisons between the tender town postmen and their rural brethren in mountain districts. It must not be forgotten, however, that whereas the mountains are not provided with lifts the

# In Canada and the Morld Over

# " Snap "

flats are, and the Postmaster-General's decision does not demand the installation of lifts, but the use of them where such exist. Before long, no doubt, the tenants will have induced their landlords to give their consent in most cases, the ordeal of the postman's possible company in the lift being preferable to the risk and delay arising from the alternative course.

#### \* \* \*

There seems to be evidence that private posts were established in England as early as the time of Edward III. In 1644 Edward Prideaux was appointed master of posts, and established a weekly service between certain points. In 1633 private enterprise provided a penny post, operating in the city of London alone. Of course, these were all private enterprises, but having Government sanction, and practically a monopoly. During the reign of Queen Anne the postal service seems to have been established on a more systematic basis. It was, of course, incomplete, and only covered certain sections. The rates at that time were graded, being 4c for 15 miles, increasing to 15 for 300 miles. For a century or two this seems to have been the condition of the postal service in England, and it continued with comparatively little improvement up to the time of that well-known postal reformer, Sir Rowland Hill.

The U. S. Postmaster General and a committee consisting of the First Assistant Post Master General, the Postmaster of Washingthe ton, the Supt. of Mails of Chicago, Asst. Supt. of Mails, and the Supt. of De-livery of New York City, have decided to meet and consider a general reorganization of the working forces of the great post-offices of the country. The P. M. G. has evolved a plan to consolidate the mailing and city delivery divisions under one general superintendent, so that men may be transferred from one division to another without affecting the efficiency of either division. He hopes thereby to save the Postoffice Department several hundred thousand dollars a year and also increase the efficiency of the service. New York City, Chicago, St. Louis and Washington are to be tried first.

\* \* \*

#### \* \* \*

In these days when commodities are costly and the cost of living high there is evidence that apologies may be registered at a reasonable figure. The case of the Booths, leaders of the Volunteers of America, proves it. As the story goes, Commander Booth or-

dered a case of mineral water from a New York department store. It arrived in a box plainly marked "Whiskey," whereupon, it may be supposed, the neighbors of the Booths, who reside at Montclaim, N.J., open ed their eyes, pricked up their ears, and began to whisper across the back fences. The excitement was short-lived, however. As soon as he recovered from the shock, Commander Booth addressed the department store, demanding an apology and requiring that it be written on a postal card, "so that its meaning might be plain to the postmaster, the postman, and to anyone through whose hands it passed." Of course the postal card apology was promptly forwarded. and if Commander Booth's belief is wellfounded, was read by all who came in contact with it. At any rate, even though one might hesitate to take that view of local officials and one's own neighbors, it is certain that the Montclair episode was closedand at he reasonable cost of one cent.

The administration of the Old Age Pension Act in Great Britain brings the civil servant in close touch with some of the gravest social problems of the day. *The Civilian* tells the following story :

An old woman, a young woman, and a baby drifted into a provincial Excise Office the other day, with a claim to Old Age Pension. "Was the paper right? Would it do?" "No; you've forgotten your age." "That's the bother," replied the old woman and the young woman together, while the baby, with all the astonishment usual to six months, looked on. "We don't know." Lengthy immaterial explanatory matter was cut short. material explanatory matter was cut short. "How old were you when you were mar-ried?" "Twenty-six." "How long were you married?" "Thirty-five years." "How long have you been a widow?" "Father's been dead seven years." "Sixty-eight! No use coming here until you're seventy." "But I am seventy, I'm sure." "Mother's over seventy." "You'll have to prove it," was the Officer's response, as mentally he figured the young woman 24, and fancied 68 was more like the old lady's years. He stopped the tale of woe by suggesting poor relief. "No, sir; it's been stopped seven months." "What for?" "Because of the baby." Poor little beggar! Poor old woman. Ten minutes of a busy Pension Officer's time gone in matters which do not count, but which make him think hard things about Christian England, while the poor old woman, the young woman, and the baby depart drearily from the office.

# THE AUDITOR-GENERAL COM-PLAINS OF THE SENATE.

The Auditor-General in his report tabled on Nov. 23 complains of the Civil Service Act being ignored in the Senate, in the matter of the classification of employees. In the Senate certain members of the staff are classified in the second and third divisions who, the Auditor thinks, should not be considered as belonging to the clerical staff at all. Mr. Fraser reported the matter to the justice department and the treasury board, which sustained him, but the internal economy committee of the Senate directed the clerk to make the payments.

In his letter to Mr. Fielding, the Auditor says in part:

"The staff of the Senate is under the Civil Service Act, the Senate was a party to the passing of this act. and now declines to be governed by its provisions. If they can override the law in this instance then they can pay whatever salaries they please to the staff and expend their appropriation in any manner, legal or otherwise, as they see fit. As they must have a credit for the payment of their accounts I can only object, but my objections are unheeded. All I can do is to carry out the provisions of the revenue act, and report the matter to the Commons."

#### OTTAWA CIVII. SERVICE ASSO-CIATION.

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The new Ottawa civil service Executive held its first meeting on Friday, Dec. 2. The meeting was mainly for organization purposes, the following standing committees being appointed for the year:

Superannuation:-Messrs. Higman, Foran, Hutchinson, Brittain, Goodspeed.

Insurance:-Messrs. Macmillan, Watson, Stockton, Fuller and Barber.

Sanitation:-Messrs. Brittain, Macpherson and Kehoe.

Printing:-Messrs. Munro, Eddy and Johnson.

Constitution:-Messrs. Patching, Flant, MacCormac and Broadbent.

Representation: — Messrs. Bleakney, Greene, Munro and MacMillan.

Editorial:--Messrs. Patching and Dillon. Co-operation: -- Messrs. Caron and Creighton.

Superannuation and the Third Division question received the most of the discussion. The committee on the former was instructed to prepare a petition on the subject, while the latter is to take further steps towards securing favourable consideration from the government and the commissioners of the representations made by the late Executive.

#### TO PROTECT POSTAL CLERKS.

With a view of safeguarding the lives and the health of railway postal clerks, the Postmaster General of the United States has secured special reports on the construction and sanitary condition of all mail cars now being operated by the railways of the country. On the basis of these reports he has given the railways formal notice that payment for mail car service will be made ony- when the cars are of safe construction and maintained in proper sanitary condition. Authority for withholding pay when these requirements are not met was granted the Postmaster General by Congress at its last session. The P.M.G. is urging upon the railways the substitution of modern steel postal cars for the wooden ones formerly used, and will insist that wooden postal cars shall not be operated in trains consisting otherwise of steel cars.

A sad incident in connection with the inauguration of the South African Union was the sudden death of Mr. W. T. Hoal, the first Postmaster-General of the new State. He arrived in Durban after completing a tour of the provinces with a view to the organization of the department. On the day after his arrival the centralized scheme under the Union was to have been commenced, and representatives from all the provinces had met at Durban in readiness. Early in the morning, however, Mr. Hoal complained of faintness, and soon after collapsed, the cause of his death being hemorrhage of the brain. He was universally respected in the Cape service, and had attained his high position, enjoyed for so short a time, by merit alone.

# Personals.

#### Appointments.

Agriculture Dept .: - T. G. Bunting, Div. 2B.

Customs Dept.:-W. A. Mabee, Preven-tive Officer at Simcoe; V. J. Higgins, Asst. Appraiser at Toronto; J. White, Asst.

Gauger at Winnipeg. Inland Revenue Dept.:-Raoul Filteau, Excise Officer at Quebec; Chas. Pitman, Dep. Collector at Saskatoon; S. F. John-stone, Asst. Insp. Gas at Toronto; W. Currie, Excise Officer at Brandon (vice M. R. Parkin, resigned); R. W. Gregor, Dep. Collector, Rossland, (vice H. P. McCraney, resigned); Danl. J. McLean, Asst. Insp.

Weights and Measures, Winnipeg. Marine Dept.:—A. E. Hopper, Inspector Machinery at Vancouver; J. E. Martin, Officer-in-Charge Fish Hatchery, Kennedy Lake. B.C.

Mines Dept .: - S. G. Alexander to Div. 2B.

Naval Service:-Thos. Slinge, Officer-in-Charge Naval Ordnance Stores at Halifax.

Printing and Stationery Dept.:-J. O. Patenaude, Superintendent Stores and Dis-tribution; F. R. Boardman, Superintendent Printing.

Post Office Dept .: - Jas. Keenan, S. & S., Hamilton; N. L. Crome, Ottawa; D. J. Murdoch, Ottawa; J. Macdonald, Calgary; S. Herman, Toronto; A. J. Cameron, Regina; A. Groulx, Ottawa; H. M. Huderhill, Moosejaw; B. P. Partridge, Winnipeg; T. House, Calgary; F. McKenna, Calgary; L. S. Nunchin, Winnipeg; W. A. McLeod, Vancouver.

#### Promotions.

Customs Dept .:- C. Delaney, Magdalen Islands, \$500 to \$800; Benj. Clubb, Collector at Saskatoon, \$1,200 to \$1,500; H. S. Scott, London, England, \$2,000 to \$2,-500; Fredk. MacLennan, White Horse, \$1.800 to \$2.250.

Inland Revenue Dept .: - J. F. McDonald to Collector at Dawson.

Post Office Dept .: - Jno. McIntyre, messenger, to clerkship, Calgary; W. P. Falvey, porter, to S. & S. class; A. E. Pouliot, Junior 3rd to Senior 3rd, Quebec; J. G. Dagneau, 4th class to Junior 3rd; J. Berthelet, Senior 2nd to 1st class, Mont-real; N. S. Warwicker, Junior 2nd to Senior 2nd, Victoria.

Public Works Dept .: -- Miss A. Valade to Div. 3A; Mrs. M. J. Roy to Div. 3A; Miss A. L. Belanger to Div. 3A; J. A. Bain to Div. 1B; G. N. Hutchison to Div. 1B; C. D. Sutherland to Div. 2A; F. Foulis to Div. 2A; J. G. Kennedy to Div. 3A; F. O. H. Amel to Div. 3A.

Railways and Canals:-J. W. Pugsley to a pre-solid and a line of the same of the Div. 1B.

Trade and Commerce Dept .:- Donald Manson, Inspector, Winnipeg, \$1,500 to \$1,700.

#### Superannuations.

Wm. McMahon, Printing and Stationery, Ottawa; L. J. R. Steckel, Public Works Dept., Ottawa.

#### Resignations.

Customs Dept.:—Miss Grace Low, Ot-tawa; Miss Mary L. Stevens, Ottawa. Finance Dept.:—Miss Kate M. McLen-

nan.

Inland Revenue Dept .:- Mrs. Geo. Normandin, Montreal; Hiram P. McCraney, Rossland.

Mines Dept .: - F. O'Farrell, Ottawa.

Public Works Dept.:—A. J. Matheson, Ottawa; Paul B. Whitney, Ottawa; A. L. Biggar, Ottawa; Trade and Commerce Dept.:—David

Horn, Chief Grain Inspector of Canada.

# THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF PRINTING.



# Mr. Frederick Boardman.

The new Superintendent of Printing was born at Owen Sound, Ont., 48 years ago. He has been in the printing business all his life, having been superintendent of the Job Department of the Montreal Herald for eight years past.



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