

PAGES

MISSING

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The Seed Branch

A Hardworking and Efficient Organisation and How it Helps the Public.

This is the second of the series of articles on separate parts of the Civil Service begun in the last issue of *The Civilian*. The object is to set forth exactly what the thousands of people who work in the public offices of the Dominion do to earn their pay. If these articles as a whole have the effect of causing each branch of the Service to know the others better and appreciate them more highly, that will be a good thing. If they teach even a few of the public, our employers, some of the details of their own business, that may be even a better thing. We give only the facts, stating those facts in such a way that all can understand them.

There are some branches of the public service whose usefulness to the public can be understood only after some explanation. But the way in which the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture helps to promote the good of the country is set forth in its very name. There is no part of the Service whose work is done more directly for the people or the results of whose work are of greater practical benefit.

The Seed Branch has for its special business the administration of the Seed Control Act, but the enthusiasm of its officers has made it also a public man-of-all-work for the promotion of good farming in all matters that pertain to seeds.

Two main evils are to be guarded against in regard to seeds. In the first place, weed seeds must be kept out. There are actually parts of Canada—few and small, it is true, but to be seen by anybody none the less—in which weeds have gained so strong a hold upon the soil that the fight against them for the making of a crop costs more than the crop is worth when it is harvested. This is the reason why farms are abandoned in

some cases. The second evil to be guarded against is the use of seed which either will not germinate at all or will produce plants that are so weak and spindling that the land and labor devoted to their cultivation are wasted. Besides these evils to be guarded against there is one good thing to be promoted and that is the production and use of seeds of the best and most vigorous strains, because such seeds, other things being equal, give the greatest yield. How the Seed Branch fights against the two evils indicated and promotes the good result that all farmers are seeking is here briefly told.

The most direct service rendered to the public by the Seed Branch is in the testing of seeds. Any farmer or seedsman in Canada can have seed tested by the Branch under rigidly scientific methods on sending a sample. This service costs nothing: the authorities figure that it pays the public to have this done for everybody who applies rather than run any avoidable risk of bad crops.

Though the tests are strictly scientific, the methods followed are such as anybody could use if he had

the necessary skill and knowledge. In testing for purity, the sample submitted is first thoroughly mixed in a miniature machine used in all such laboratories, and then a small quantity is taken. But before this a careful record has been made in order that there may be no danger of confusing any two of the many thousands of samples that come from all parts of the Dominion. After a thorough mixing, a portion of the sample is taken, the portion being judged by means of laboratory scales which measure with the greatest nicety. The laboratory sample thus taken is then handed over to one of a number of clerks whose business it is to pick out all other seeds than those which the sample is supposed to contain. This work is done with such completeness that when it is finished the weed seeds are all identified and the exact number of each kind is known. This work is done by women. The skill acquired by these clerks is wonderful, yet, as seed for Canadian farms comes from every part of the world, weed seeds are often encountered which the clerks cannot identify. The Branch has among its officers a botanist whose knowledge of many languages enables him to consult the books on his specialty from every part of the world. In the place from which it comes, a given weed may be little harmful, being kept in check by climatic conditions or by the struggle for survival carried on by other plants. But give it a new habitat and it may spread rapidly and destructively. This being the case, it is of vital importance to identify every newcomer amongst the thousands of seeds that appear on the table of the seed testers and to warn farmers as to the conditions under which the intruder is likely to flourish and give trouble.

The majority of the samples sent in for these tests are of grass and clover seeds. In the great seed markets of the world, Liverpool and Hamburg, these seeds are graded just as wheat is graded in Winnipeg. The Seed Branch also works on established grades, and in case of doubt as to

how a given sample should be graded, the matter is referred to a board of three experts, one being the head of the Branch, the Seed Commissioner.

In connection with this work of detecting weeds and guarding the country against their introduction and spread, there are many lines of usefulness for the Branch's operations. One of the most widely known is in the publication and distribution of what is known as "the Weed Book," or, to give the exact title, "Farm Weeds." Every agricultural society, every public or separate school that has a library, every municipal council and hundreds of representative farmers have been furnished free with this volume which conveys knowledge concerning all the weeds which endanger Canadian agriculture at this time. This is the handsomest and most elaborate publication ever put out for popular use by the government and the demand for it has been tremendous. A second edition, enlarged and improved, has recently been turned out and thousands of copies have already been distributed. Another way in which the public are informed as to noxious weeds is by cabinets of bottles containing the seeds of all the weeds legislated against under the Seed Control Act, each sample labelled with the popular and botanical names. These are furnished to seed houses throughout the Dominion as a guide to these dealers in promoting the purity of the goods they handle. Smaller cabinets illustrative of the more dangerous weeds have been exhibited by the Branch at a number of the leading fairs, and arrangements are now about completed for the distribution of similar cases to many educational institutions. This work is by no means small. For, though there are far more weed seeds in the country than anybody wishes to have, yet, when it comes to actually collecting in quantity the seeds of every weed that the farmers are to be warned against, there are endless difficulties to be overcome. The collecting of these seeds is a part of the

work of the experts who form the body of the Branch's organization.

A service less directly for the farmers but of inestimable value to the public is in the correspondence carried on with similar departments of the public service in other countries. The communication of information concerning weeds goes on constantly among the experts in the service of the different governments, together with the exchange of samples. The collection in the Seed Branch of Canada is already extensive and of the highest educational value, and Canada, on the other hand, is doing her part toward guarding the world's agriculture against weed pests.

A different laboratory with its special outfit is necessary to carry on the work of testing seeds for germinating power. Here again, the methods are simple and direct, but, being carried on with skill and under expert direction of a high character, the results are most satisfactory. A sample of the seed being taken, the seeds are forced into germination under conditions reproducing, as nearly as possible, those of nature. For seeds whose germination depends upon heat and moisture only, electrically warmed ovens or cells are provided. The distribution of moisture in these cells is regulated in a most ingenious manner by a device made by one of the officers of the Branch. For grasses and other plants which germinate best where the force of light is added to those of heat and moisture, a special frame is provided before a great south-facing window. The seeds are placed on dishes of unglazed porcelain which absorb moisture and heat, and the tiny plants soon answer the forcing to which the seeds are subjected. By making sure that the seeds set for germination fairly represent the sample to be tested and then by simply counting the seeds and also the plants actually produced, the officers are able to tell to a nicety just what percentage of plants the farmer may expect from seed like the sample if that seed be sown under favorable conditions. As can be imagined, this

whole work of testing seeds for purity and for germinating power is most interesting. There is no lack of enthusiasm among the officers engaged in these duties.

To develop seed of strong character and to extend the use of such seed among agriculturists throughout the country, the seed branch has made itself the principal link between the Experimental Farms and the people who raise the crops. The specialists on the experimental farms are constantly carrying on investigations and experiments with a view to improving the strains of seeds in use. Among the farmers of Canada are a large body of intelligent, skillful and public-spirited men who are ready to second and support in every way the efforts that are thus put forward by the servants of the public for the benefit of the great staple art of agriculture.

The connection between this official and this unofficial body of workers is made in a simple way through the Seed Branch. The Canadian Seed Growers' Association has been formed and is carried on under a bonus from the Dominion Government. Seed produced on the experimental farms is handed over to the members of the Association who undertake to increase it while maintaining its purity. All over Canada small seed plots are worked by the best farmers, who not only increase the seed but also make valuable reports upon the conditions of growth.

By the channels thus made the best of seed is distributed throughout the country. And so, many a farmer who knows nothing about the Seed Branch, and who, perhaps, has the supercilious disregard of pure ignorance for all "book farming", is nevertheless protected and benefitted by the work of this splendid organization.

All this is what may be called the extra and, for the purposes of such an article as this, the more interesting work of the Branch. But, as stated above, the main business of this part of the Service is to administer and enforce the Seed Control Act. This is the law which regulates the sale of

seeds and provides standards of purity in these goods, and also fixes penalties for those who wilfully make gain out of the distribution of bad seed. This work involves a whole staff of inspectors and administrators, many of whom travel extensively within the Dominion, for the law must be enforced not only at headquarters but in every corner of Canada in which farming is carried on. This part of the system is carried out with thoroughness and with a minimum of friction. A mere description of it would lack interest, but, did space permit, many good stories could be told of the experiences of the men who administer this most important law.

All the officers of the Branch are not at Ottawa. There are district offices at Truro, N. S. ; Winnipeg, Man. ; Regina, Sask. ; Calgary, Alta. ; and through these agencies much important work is done. An idea of the extent of the operations of the Branch as a whole is conveyed in the fact that last year 6,396 samples of seed were tested, about half of them for farmers, the others being for seed dealers. In the year of the frosted wheat, in the West, when special care had to be exercised in regard to the seed to be sown, the samples of seed examined numbered no less than 13,000 or double the normal business. Yet all the work is carried on with a despatch which any private corporation might emulate. The Branch has the proud record, for instance, of having made return within twenty-four hours from receipt of every sample of seed received for examination as to purity. Germination tests must await the slower working of nature's laws, but, so far as the work of the Branch is concerned, there has been absolutely no loss of time. When a seedsman has a carload of seed awaiting acceptance or a farmer delays his seeding to have an official test made, time is of the very essence of the business and the promptness of the returns sent out by the Branch must be highly appreciated. And, owing to the irregularity with

which, in the nature of things, the work is brought to the Branch, this promptness means extremely hard work at times for the staff employed. For, of course, with work involving skill and special care, it is not possible to double the staff to meet a special rush of business. Many holidays are lost to the employees in order that the Branch may give its help to the farmers when that help is most needed.

The organization of the staff, according to Civil Service divisions, is as follows :—

1 (Commissioner) 1 A ; 4, 2 A ; 2, 2 B ; 5, 3 A ; 9 (including messenger) 3 B ; outside service, 9. The names are as follows:

1 a. George H. Clark, Seed Commissioner.

2 a. Messrs. E. A. Eddy, T. G. Raynor, Geo. Michaud, Jos. C. Coté.

2 b. Duncan Gow, Wm. Bond.

3 a. Misses A. Cranston, S. Millette, A. L. Brown, M. F. Hartley, A. Bradley

3 b. Misses C. M. Lafontaine, R. Ralston, H. Hill, J. Fisher, J. M. Kilburn, L. Reardon, M. J. Winthrop, M. T. Rochette, Messenger, S. Kipp.

Outside Service, employed as seed inspectors and instructors in seed-growing: S. J. Moore, Truro; D. M. O. Malte—recently from Sweden—headquarters, Ottawa; E. A. Howes, Guelph; F. H. Reed, Regina; Alfred Eastham, Calgary; Louis Lavallée, St. Guillaume. There are also three office assistants at district offices.

The majority of these—all of them except those in the lowest divisions—are technically trained men, graduates of agricultural colleges. Several have world-wide reputation as authorities on special features of the working which they are engaged. Besides these there are a number of temporary employees, including those employed at the sub offices of the Branch.

Omar Khayyam in the Excise.

A poet of the British *Civilian* has caught the same infection as our own Silas Wegg, whose "Rubaiyat of a Civil Servant" of some weeks ago was one of the best things we have ever published. The British poet has evidently been an excise man — like Bobby Burns — which accounts for the realistic epicureanism of the following :—

Oh, Plagued no more with Pensions and Excise
To-Morrow's Programme let itself devise:
The Problems that the Morning Light shall bring
Shall solve Themselves as They Themselves arise.

Whether at Haig and Haig or Jamieson,
Whether the Worms with Pot or Patent run,
The Sample Pipes keep oozing Drop by Drop
The Wash Degrees keep falling One by One.

But leave the Wise to prophesy, and be
Resigned to Old Age Pension work, like me,
And in your corner of the Office crouch't
Make Hash of that which makes as much of Thee

Why, all our Service Prophets who did shirk
Their Proper Jobs to try to pierce the mirk
Through which our future loomed, have found
Discredit, and their mouths are stopped with Work.

Then Fill the flask! Why should we be dismayed
If for Three Weeks we've lived on Lemonade!
Though Broke To-morrow and Broke Yesterday,
Why fret about it if To-day we're Paid!

So, when the Smiling Warehouseman shall say,
"Here's Luck!" and toss the Beaded Blend away,
Do you, Official Warehouseman, likewise—
It's all allowed for in your monthly pay.

Aud This I know, whether it serve to Aid,
Or serve my Future Being to Degrade,
One Nip of it within the Warehouse caught,
Better than in the Tavern Duty-Paid.

What, without asking, hither hurried Whence!
And, spite of asking, never hurried hence!
Another and another Pipe to drug
The Memory of this Impertinence!

The Pipe that can, with Birdseye in the Bowl,
Bestow sweet Comfort on the troubled Soul,
And brighten Life's dull Progress as it grows
Fouler and sweeter as the ages roll.

The pipe beneath whose subtle witchery
The Two-and-Seventy License Laws agree,
Whose subtle magic makes me wonder at
The Old Age Pensions Act's simplicity.

Myself, when Young did eagerly consent
To learn to smoke, in spite of argument
About it and about, though at the first
The Smoke did not Come out where in it went.

And thus the Seed of Wisdom did I sow
In spite of warning that I'd cease to grow,
And this of Life I gathered in the Clouds;
I burn like Birdseye and like Shag I go.

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

Ottawa, Oct. 20, 1911

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.

In an address on Education at the recent annual meeting of the British Association, Bishop Welldon seemed to contemplate an early return to the system of nomination to posts in the British Service. He pointed out that examination was once the obvious remedy for favouritism, but that it could never test some of the highest qualities of men and women for the Service of the State. He emphasised this remark by a curious one—he said that “a facility for answering questions upon paper was easily associated with grave defects of intellect and character.” Then he forecasted a future (presumably no distant one) when examinations would lose their “fatal authority,” and other considerations (not specified) should govern election to the Public Service.

The Civil Servant is directly interested in the law governing appointments, for the man who enters with influence alone at his back may enter it at an unfair stage, or may bring his

influence with him. Bishop Welldon's perfunctory dismissal of examinations as “once the obvious remedy for favouritism,” implies, as a British contemporary points out, an enviable obliviousness of the essential features of this problem of executive government. For when he suggests that “favouritism” will ever “cease to be a public danger” he not only visualises the millennium, he surely is unaware that within living memory, Gladstone, Disraeli, Robert Lowe, Bulwer Lytton, Trevelyan, and Fawcett have felt compelled to denounce this favouritism as a very grave peril to the State. Indeed, the method of recruiting the Civil Service by open competition was the direct outcome of these denunciations, and the undoubted cause of that efficiency to which the Public Service of Great Britain owes its present reputation of being the finest in the world. All the objections that are now being made against the system of recruiting the Service by examinations were urged against the institution of that system during the years of struggle, 1853 to 1869. The great reformers named met and demolished them all, showing them to be in essence the specious arguments by which the privileged always seek to buttress privilege. Experience has in fact shown that the one source of weakness in the original charter of open competition was the exceptions it admitted. Moreover, subsequent investigations have proved only too conclusively that wherever the public interest in the British Service is not safeguarded by unrestricted open competition for appointments, caste will assert itself and privilege prevail. It is recorded in the proceedings of a certain Select Committee that under the blessed system of nomination then prevailing a confirmed lunatic was appointed to a Government Clerkship while another such post was given to my lord's greengrocer, desirous of a peaceful close to an uneventful life. No wonder Bulwer Lytton said, “admission into the Civil Service is indeed eagerly sought after, but it is for the

unambitious and the indolent or the incapable, that it is chiefly desired," and by a graphic epigram went on to picture the supercilious inefficiency of the permanent officials, "who affect to deliberate when in reality they only dawdle."

If anything further were needed to prove that in this part of his address Bishop Welldon mused upon a fancied world rather than upon the real, it is furnished by his curious remark that a "facility for answering questions upon paper was easily associated with grave defects of intellect and character." For the natural inference from this is that the written paper is the one test governing admission to the public service. The fact is that, apart from the use of the *viva voce* method in their examinations, the Civil Service Commissioners make the most careful inquiry into the physical and moral fitness of candidates for public appointments.

The Civil Service is directly interested in appointment by examination and wants to see the system enlarged and strengthened. Without it the Service can never escape from criticism of the Bulwer Lytton type, which though doubtless called for at the time has been repeated in later days when it was less justified with most unhappy results for the standing of the service in the public estimation.

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PROGRESS.

At Saturday's meeting of the Board of Administration of the Savings and Loan Association, twenty new members were elected, and a considerable accretion to the Society's capital announced. The Society is now the "banker" for the Civil Service Federation and for the Ottawa Association, as well as for over four hundred civil servants.

LES FEMMES DANS LES MINISTÈRES.

Il y a quelque temps, M. Steeg, ministre de l'Instruction publique, de France avait reçu de deux dames des demandes d'autorisation à se présenter au concours qui doit avoir lieu prochainement pour l'emploi de rédacteur expéditionnaire du ministère.

Cette question de l'admission des femmes dans les ministères se posait pour la première fois.

M. Steeg, après avoir pris l'avis de ses collègues, a informé les candidates qu'il regrettait de ne pouvoir leur donner satisfaction, les règlements administratifs s'opposant à l'admission aux emplois de rédacteur des personnes qui n'ont pas satisfait à la loi militaire.

BAZAR DE CHARITE

La très jolie miss Bluffenheimer voit passer le fils Myrmont Bierkan, et l'interpelle :

—Allons, allons, Myrmont, vous achèterez bien quelque chose à ma table, n'est ce pas ?

Le fils du grand remueur d'argent montre du doigt un grand diable de valet qui suit, chargé comme une mule, et répond :

—Je ne sais plus que faire, miss Rosie, j'ai acheté de tout ; mais si vous voulez me vendre des baisers...

—A cent dollars pièce, oui !

Myrmont Bierkan tire de sa poche deux billets de cent dollars et les tend à miss Bluffenheimer. Celle-ci appelle sa dame de compagnie, laideron de 45 ans, et lui dit avec un sourire angélique :

—Donnez les deux baisers que M. Bierkan vient d'acheter !

La foule qui s'est massée rit à se tordre, mais elle rit encore bien davantage lorsque le jeune millionnaire se retourne froidement et dit au grand diable de valet de chambre :

—John, recevez !

L'histoire est authentique et les noms mêmes sont à peine déguisés.

At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

A Letter from Boston.

"The Devil has charge of only thirty-five things." I send this along to you, dear readers, as a piece of news. I heard it in the Boston Subway, and the man who made the statement was a prosperous looking citizen who may own a department store. This was not all he said, but this was in itself the most startling thing he said. He was talking to two other prosperous looking men and he talked earnestly, with gesticulations even, yet he was not mad or drunk with new wine as far as I could make out. Yes, there on an electric car running through the subway, a grey dressed man with tan shoes and a brown fedora, talked to two other men of righteousness and judgement. "I intend to ally myself with God," said he, "that is, with the good in the world. So allied I can go forward unafraid." And then he made the statement that the devil has charge over only thirty-five things.

One of his friends asked him how he was so sure of the exact number. He replied that thirty-five was a limit beyond which the devil could not go, that he was restricted, in fact, to a much smaller group of things in the course of an ordinary day. I took it that the devil made his possible only on the Sabbath.

I had to change cars before the prosperous looking man entered into details concerning Satan's jurisdiction, but he had dropped the seed of his gospel in one heart at any rate and I have been dwelling much on his words during the last few days. I have been able to pick out a dozen things in the Civil Service over which he seems to

have control if not entire dominion. This leaves twenty-three things at the most for him in the outside world. It is plain that the Devil pays a relatively fair amount of attention to the respectable minorities.

We are not all of the fearless order of the subway optimist. The devil and his deputies are tacitly allowed by us more than their quota of portfolios in the cabinet of the Universe. Representation by population is an ideal rule for civilized communities, I suppose, and that may account for the satanic pull in the cosmic government as conceived by us day in and day out.

Is it not time for a change? A change not of the government, but of our notions of what the government of the Universe is! Don't you think it would be better for us as civil servants if we believed that merit was stronger, —yes absolutely stronger,—than pull, that courtesy, was more effective than bullragging, that fair play was more expedient than following the main chance? It was years ago, when I thought the statement irreverent, that I heard a christian taking exception to Paul's remarks that when he would do good evil was present with him. "The text should read", said the christian, "that when I would do evil good is present with me." The christian was at one with the subway optimist. The human race could not exist if disease was as strong as the patent medicine almanacs say it is, and society would fall into anarchy if the evil in the world had such a grip on things as you and I generally think it has.

There now, I have been preaching; but in this city of Boston where



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Before I close let me contradict a report that I hear was current in Ottawa, namely, that I left the Capital for fear of being taken into the new cabinet. This is not so, although some friends of mine who admire one of my lower limbs assured me that I would make good cabinet timber.

With reference to my aforesaid lower limb it may not be out of place to tell you that I had difficulty in getting it across the U. S. border without paying duty on it. The officer contended that, through their being no reciprocity in natural products, I should have to pay the tax. I held that it was an unnatural product and produced a file of the *Civilian* in support of my contention. He then claimed that I was carrying my leg as a concealed weapon, but got twisted when he began to read the section of the statutes forbidding entrance into the republic of anyone bearing arms. He felt however, that he should impose some penalty or obligation on me, so he had my leg enamelled with the device of the stars and stripes before I proceeded on my journey. At any rate I need not serve under the stars and stripes unless I stand, or am stood, upon my head.

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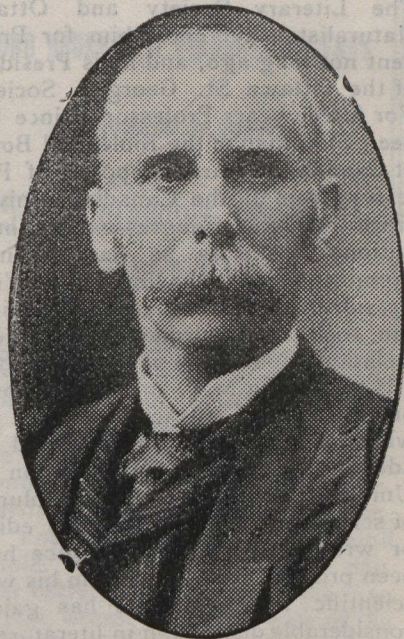
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Civilian Portraits.

THE DOMINION COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

The high honour of the degree of LL.D., has been conferred by St. Andrews University of Scotland upon Prof. E. E. Prince, Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries. St. Andrews, as is well known, is one of the most important and venerable of the British Universities, and its



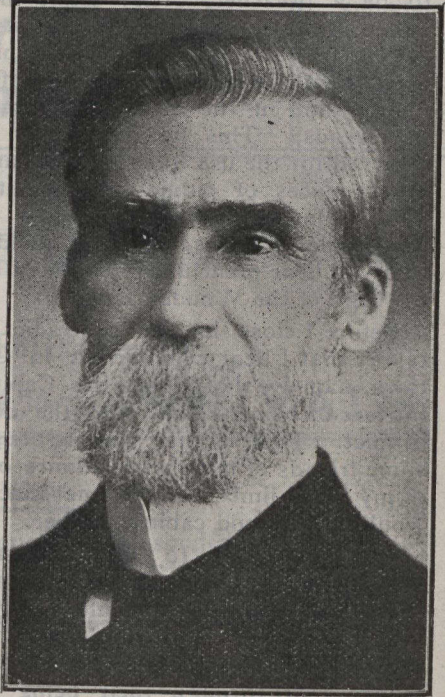
PROF. EDWARD E. PRINCE.

honorary degrees are very sparingly given. It is Prof. Prince's *alma mater* that grants him this recognition of his standing as a naturalist. Prof. Prince was recently in attendance at the convention of the International Fisheries Association which met at Rome. He is vice-president of the association, which includes the best known fish experts of the world.

Professor Prince has recently returned from the 500th Anniversary of the foundation of St. Andrews University, at which he represented the

Canadian Royal Society. Commenting on this, "Canada" of Sept. 30, says:

"For some years, Prof. Prince has been a leading member of the Royal Society of Canada, which he has been representing at the St. Andrews Quincentenary, and as President of the Zoology Section he gave a notable address in 1907 on "Biology in Canada." He was Vice-President of the Zoology Section of the British Association at Winnipeg in 1909, having been Secretary at Toronto, in 1898. The Literary Society and Ottawa Naturalists' Club chose him for President not long ago, and he is President of the Ottawa St. George's Society. For fifteen years Professor Prince has been Chairman of the Biological Board of Canada, a Board composed of Professors from all the Canadian Universities. At the Congresses of International Fisheries he has taken a prominent part, having been Vice-President of the Congress at Washington, 1908, and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at Rome, in 1911. His address in May, in Rome, proved one of the most attractive during the whole congress, and he repeated the address, by request, last month in the University of Leeds. Several volumes of scientific and fishery papers edited or written by Professor Prince have been printed, and, apart from his wide scientific reputation, he has gained considerable distinction in literature.



DR. PETER MACDONALD.

Dr. Macdonald was Deputy Speaker of the House. He was appointed Postmaster of London in 1909, upon the death of Mr. John Cameron, former Postmaster.

Correspondence.

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

Of Interest to Customs Clerks.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Dr. Peter Macdonald, Postmaster of London, was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, on August 14th, 1835. He came to Ontario in his youth and took up the study of medicine. On graduation he started practice in the town of Wingham, in Huron County, where he was very successful. Dr. Macdonald was first elected in the House of Commons in 1887 and sat continuously for East Huron until 1904, when he was defeated by a brother medico, Dr. Chisholm. Between 1900-

Would you kindly let me know if the bill introduced last session, providing for a class in the customs to be known as senior clerks, has been passed and is it now in force? Clerks are now at a maximum of \$1,200. This bill provided for a maximum of \$1,600.

Yours truly,

J. W. S. M.

The amendment to the Civil Service Act, referred to above was introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Customs last session, received its first reading, was debated on second reading but did not receive the assent of Parliament. It is said to be the intention of the Department to recommend the passage of the amendment to the new Minister but of course the Bill will have to be reintroduced and treated as a new measure.

From One of The Outposts.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I beg to enclose a postal note of \$1.00 for subscription to the *Civilian* April 1912, and to say that it is always a pleasure for me to receive *The Civilian*. Although many miles away from Ottawa, it keeps us in such close touch with other civil servants.

Wishing you success and trusting that the number of your subscribers for next year will treble, I am

Yours Truly,

JOHN HOWARD,

P. O. Inspector.

Saskatoon, Sept. 23, 1911.

PRIVATE AFFAIRS AND OFFICIAL STATUS

From the *Civil Service Gazette*.

To what extent do private affairs influence official status?

The question is an important one, and involves many grave considerations, and, for the sake of argument, let us put one or two strong cases, not having, as far as we know, any parallel in real life, but useful as showing the delicate points upon which official authority and official public opinion might easily have to decide.

Supposing a man to be addicted to vices which ostracise him from general society, which cause him to be pointed out as a warning to the young, and shunned as a contaminating com-

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panion by the old, is a government office the one place of the all others where his painful idiosyncracies are to be condoned? We ask for information. Is purity of life, regularity of conduct, unsullied honour, and sound principle, to find itself on a par, neither better nor worse, with the man who just keeps within the pale of the law? Is the official fold to be the only one, wherein the black sheep are to be placed on equal terms with those of snowy fleece? and are the ordinary rules adopted by society for the common welfare to be utterly ignored only by that section of it which draws salary from the Crown?

We are aware that it is dangerous to legislate upon a matter which nearly touches the liberty of the subject, and that in injudicious hands the right of mixing up private surroundings with official prestige might be productive of no small evils. Still, the best wishers of the Service—the men who are most anxious to elevate it in the eyes of the world, and who, in their own persons, do their utmost to contribute to that

elevation—complain that when their calling is dragged in the mire through the injudicious (to use the mildest term) conduct of some of their fellows, no cognisance whatever is taken of their conduct. If it be known to a select circle that the man who most openly transgresses the rules of decorum, whose life is the least useful and the most open to censure, is on the same professional footing as his exemplary neighbour who practises self-denial, temperance, thrift, and all the homely virtues which go to make up the good citizen, the public opinion of that circle is condemnatory of both. The inference is that as the man of notoriously loose life is as acceptable to his fellows as his more reputable colleague, the latter has objectionable qualities which more than counterbalance his much outward superiority.

We are no purists. We should resent as impertinent any attempt to pry into the habits or exercise surveillance over the tastes of any member of the Civil Service. But where, as is occasionally the case, a crying sin against public decency is ventilated by the Press throughout the length and breadth of the land, when, from the judge who passes sentence to the jury who convict, there is but one opinion as to the indefensible conduct of the person implicated, it becomes the bounden duty of us all to mark the distinction between false conduct and true.

There are sins which are denounced from the pulpit, and condemned by every man of proper feeling, but which do not render the perpetrator amenable to the law; and there are offences legally punishable which circumstances may make venial, and almost praiseworthy. It is not necessary to plunge very deeply into metaphysical ethics to become aware of this, and it is scarcely pertinent to our present object to dilate upon such anomalies at length. But when it is made fully apparent that in every other walk of life the transgressions of a certain sinner are such as would cause patients

to leave him for a rival, clients to forsake him, parishioners to denounce, or customers to withdraw, then it may be fairly argued that some notice should be taken in his world of the offence proved.

If, we will say, a Government official figures in the Divorce Court under circumstances peculiarly discreditable, or is notoriously a drunkard, it does not seem right that the man whose life is spent in accordance with the laws of morality and sobriety should meet him day by day without open censure or tacit reproach. But that this is done, and constantly done, the least acquaintance with official life will plainly show. In no section of the community is the force of public opinion less vigorously expressed, and the fact of a man being in a Government office would seem to exempt him from much of the Argus-eyed criticism which attends the wayfarer in other walks. Let it not be thought that we are advocating censoriousness or want of charity, that we would have Civil Servants pry into each other's affairs, and re-enact the Candour and Snerwell scene in the "School for Scandal." There is a happy medium in all such matters, and we only wish for something like a distinctly expressed reprobation of social transgressions unusually severe. With it the moral tone of the Service would be increased, and its position proportionately improved. Without it, Civil Servants will lay themselves open to the reproach of indifference and laxity to points quite as important as promotions or scales.

It is stated that the King contemplates the creation of a new Order, which would be conferred on Civil Service veterans, in addition to Army and Navy veterans, in recognition of services to the State. The idea is said to have originated with Lord Haldane.

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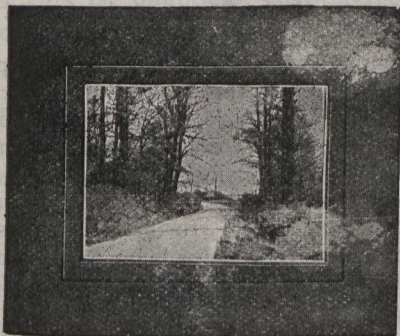
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Canadian Government Annuities.

By *François.*

The Canadian Government System of Annuities has certainly been a great achievement for a young country like Canada ; it is a very good foundation on which to build a perfect system of old age pensions.

The great European countries, such as England, France and Germany, have established, or are establishing, old age pensions, the distinctive traits of which are large contributions on the part of the state and the employers of labor, and coercive contributions from the laboring classes ; it can hardly be said that, in the Canadian system, the state contributes anything as in Europe, but, on the other hand, no coercion is exercised.

It is not the purpose of the writer to offer any criticism of either systems, but to give the interested reader an outline of a system that seems to have given almost entire satisfaction to the highly progressive country that established it, Belgium, which has been a pioneer in such legislation.

The Belgian system of old age pensions is the result both of scientific investigations, and experience. Belgium first established a system of pensions in the year 1850, but it did not prove to be entirely satisfactory ; it was in the year 1894 that, after special investigations that lasted three years, the present system was established. It was then decided to authorize the fraternal societies to add to their mortuary and sick benefits funds a pension fund, but merely as the agents of the state ; all the contributions to that fund were regularly remitted by the societies to the state fund ; then, an amount equal to 60% of the individual contributions was transferred from the national exchequer to that state fund, and the state undertook the keeping of individual accounts and the issuance of pension certificates. This scheme, which had been only tentative at first, proved such a remarkable

success that it was placed on the statutes on the 7th May, 1900, having received the almost unanimous support of the members of both houses.

The first feature of the Belgian plan is optional contributions very effectively rewarded by the 60% contribution by the state and facilitated through the agency of the fraternal societies which are evidently the best medium that can be used to reach the very people the law is intended for.

The state contribution of 60% is made only when a pension certificate holder has paid 15 francs or less in the preceding year, provided he is not considered of the well-to-do class as determined by the amount of his municipal taxes or some other like criterion: these restrictions are extended in favor of the members of the fraternal societies thus helping very materially these benevolent institutions to increase their membership. In all cases the state contribution is stopped when a pension of 360 francs at the age of 65 is assured. This pension scheme has been perfected by several other dispositions such as this one: every person of 65 years of age, and who is not a contributor to the fund, can obtain, if in need, a pension of 65 francs per year entirely contributed by the state; it was necessary to fix this pension low enough so as to leave to the main disposition of the law all their effectiveness.

It might be added that the running expenses of such a system are very low and consist chiefly of a payment to the fraternal societies of 2 francs per member and per year, the keeping of the individual accounts, and the stationery.

In conclusion, the following statistics will give an idea of the popularity of the law in Belgium: On the 31st December, 1911, the pension certificate holders numbered 300,000 ; nine years after they numbered 1,075,000.

Copy of Circular recently distributed in B. C.

Dominion Civil Servants' Association of British Columbia

Vancouver, B. C., August 17th, 1911.

Dear Sir :—

I have been requested to draw your attention to the necessity for the existence of this organization.

It was formed primarily to obtain a consolidation of the views of the service, looking to its welfare and efficiency.

To emphasize this purpose I cannot do better than cite the motto of our organ, the Civilian "*Nemo sibi vivit*," as this paraphrased is simply that the Civil Servant may think and act in concert. A consummation to achieve which is the paramount ambition of our association.

In promoting this object, we aim at collecting and investigating what we consider reasonable requests or complaints of members of the service and presenting the results to the Government, ever keeping in view our status as members of the Dominion Civil Service.

We are further encouraged in this course by the sympathetic action of the administration in seeking to know our views on proposed legislation through our representatives.

This is, doubtless, attributable to the moderation and reasonableness of our accustomed action.

Our present object is mainly to urge upon the Government the desirability of extending the Civil Service Act of 1908 to the Outside Service, and we, as the Western Branch of the Civil Service Federation of Canada especially urge our claims arising out of the difference in the cost of living in the West as compared with the East.

In the hope that our association will receive your support by your enrollment as a member, so that you may join the ranks of those who are working for a letter and more efficient Civil Service.

I am,

Yours truly,

A. B. SOWTER,

Secretary.

F. R. GREER,

Delegate Civil Service Federation of Canada, 1911.

HOLLY EVE.

“Arrah, Moya, sure the children were askin’ me today,
 To buy some nuts an’ apples for the comin’ Holly Eve,
 An’, faix, I fold them yes, av coorse—what other could I say?
 T’would never do the gorsoons an’ girleens to grieve.
 D’ye mind, aroon, that Holly Eve back in old Tralee;
 The potheen an’ colcannon an’ meltin’ av the lead;
 How our nuts burned together in the turf so faithfully,
 An’ we danced to Murty’s pipin’ till we felt light in the head?

“Do I mind it, is it, Owen? Ah! troth inded I do;
 The mem’ry av that Eve, avie, returns in dreams to me,
 When ye whispered at the half-door that I’d surely never rue
 The willing “yes” I gave ye ere we crossed the mighty sea.
 Och! I sometimes miss old Erin with its power to entrance;
 It’s hills an’ valleys, streams an’ creepin’ shamrock, too;
 But—ah tune up your fiddle an’ play the Kerry dance;
 I’ll be happy Holly Eve with the little ones an’ you.

GARRETT O’CONNOR

Bridgeburg, Ont., All Hallows, 1911.

Athletics.

All Canadians will regret that Miss Dorothy Campbell, our lady golf champion, went down to defeat before Miss Curtis of Boston last week in the American Championships. Canada regards Miss Campbell as one of her own, and of one thing we can rest assured, the defeat was taken cheerfully and with Scottish grace. But she’ll “come back”.

The whole country is agog with football. The fever is on us, and this will be followed by hockey. What a time we’ll have until next spring. If artificial ice rinks come into vogue, there’s no telling when the hockey season will begin or end.

Last Saturdays matches in the two big leagues witnessed surprises for the Ottawa teams. In the Interprovincial series, the ‘Rough Riders’ were simply slaughtered by the Hamilton Tigers to the tune of 30-0. Frequent off-side plays, with their consequent penalties told the tale against the aggregation from the Capital.

In the Intercollegiate league, much to the surprise of every one, the youthful and somewhat light XIV of Ottawa College downed the hardy Queens team by a score of 15 to 14. Father Stanton deserves much credit for the work of his youngsters.

The standing of the two leagues at present is:—

INTERPROVINCIAL.

	Won	Lost	Play	To For	Points— For Agst.
Argonauts	2	0	4	19	9
Tigers	1	1	4	41	12
Ottawa	1	1	1	15	42
Montreal	0	2	4	10	22

To-day’s games—Ottawa vs Argonauts; Montreal vs Hamilton.

INTERCOLLEGIATE.

	Won	Lost	Play	To For	Points— For Agst.
Varsity	2	0	4	36	18
McGill.....	1	1	4	31	25
Ottawa	1	1	4	20	34
Queen’s	0	2	4	21	33

To-day’s games—Varsity vs Ottawa; Queen’s vs McGill.

The Civilian has always advocated walking as a beneficial form of exercise. There is a remarkable record

held by a track inspector of the Pennsylvania Railroad, S. A. Burns. His duties call for a walk over the track four times a day—or 14 miles daily. In his 35 years service he has walked an equivalent of $7\frac{1}{2}$ times round the globe, or about 119,000 miles!

The world's baseball championship is being fought out between the New York National League team and that of the Athletics, of Philadelphia, champions of the association. The greed of filthy lucre has entered into this series with a vengeance. By a manipulation of the U. S. Mails, accomplished by collusion with the Post Office officials, speculators have managed to get a corner on tickets, and admission prices have advanced to \$20 for ordinary dollar seats. A government investigation is to be held into the postal irregularities about referred to.

Consequent upon the prohibiting of the Jack Johnstone—Moore fight in England, the former has announced his retirement from the ring. His mantle will probably fall on Langford—also an Ethiopian. If there is any redeeming feature, it is in the fact that the latter is a Canadian—altho' as usual claimed by the Americans. It begins to look as though this brutal sport is about "all in." Now that woman suffrage has carried in California it will certainly be dead there, and so much the better.

With the coming of our new Governor General, H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, true amateur sport will undoubtedly receive an impetus. Prince Arthur like our late King his

brother has always been a keen patron of all that is good in athletics.

Old time curlers in Montreal will remember His Royal Highness putting down the first 'stane' at the opening of the old St. Andrew Rink in that city, many years ago. A large group photo of this event hangs in many Canadian homes.

The ten-pin bowling season has been launched under most favourable auspices, at an enthusiastic meeting of the Civil Service Bowling Association held at the O. A. A. C. last week. The departmental system of teams was continued in force, and after considerable discussion it was decided that the rules of play for the coming season would be a combination of the American and Canadian rules. It was decided that the teams should be, as formerly, composed of six men each and that the Canadian alley rules should be followed out, but that each of the three strings should constitute a match, the totals thus counting up as in the American rules.

Mr. J. M. Roberts was elected president and G. J. Artz secretary-treasurer for the coming year. Messrs Raby Goddard, Hull, Baker and Douglas were elected a committee power to add the different team captains should occasion arise.

A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers for their excellent work in past years.

Mr. Louis Rubenstein has kindly donated a cup for team competition and has left it to the incoming committee to decide as to the rules governing its disposition, etc. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Rubenstein for his generosity.

Play will probably start about the end of the present month. Some social gatherings will be arranged for during the season.



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