

PAGES

MISSING

THE CIVILIAN

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No. 24

A Civil Service Model Suburb.

Editors of *The Civilian*: There seem to me three ways to deal with the question of the increased cost of living. One is to devote one's self to seeking the cause of present difficulties and trying to overcome them for the world at large or at least for a portion of the people. The second—at the other extreme—is to let the question take care of itself and to seek to so improve one's own financial position as to be able to defy the evils which afflict less wise or less fortunate people. The third—a combination of the other two—is to so unite the forces of a group or class as to lift not only one's self but also one's companions out of the trouble.

I say nothing here about the first and second plans, but it seems to me that the third offers opportunities to at least a large number of civil servants at this time.

It seems to be unanimously agreed that the main items of increase of the cost of living are two: (1) House rent; (2) Food. Other things also are higher in price than they were, but the increases do not seem to be so great, nor do they affect so intimately the mere question of existence.

As to the question of rents, this is in part due to a demand for more elaborate housing than we used to have. Plumbing was practically an unknown expense, except in the houses of the rich, when the civil service were first called upon to live in Ottawa. Other demands have arisen in connection with housing which undoubtedly do increase the cost of building houses for people of today as compared with the houses of our fathers. But the main ele-

ment in the increase of rents is in the higher price of land. Even quite young people in Ottawa can remember land which is now sold at \$50 a front foot was sold at not very much more than \$50 a lot.

If, then, we could find cheap food and cheap land, we should be in a very much better position than at present. Neither of these things may be procurable anywhere, but at least if they are to be had at all we must look for them in the country, not in the city.

Why not, then, go to the country? It is quite true that if each family went out by themselves and sought to make a home in the country difficulties might be so great as to make even cheap food and cheap rent dear in effort and discomfort. But if a hundred families could move to a given portion of the country, co-operative effort might eliminate all these difficulties and assure for each the advantages of the city, together with the advantages of the country.

To come down to the concrete, here is my proposition—(and I make it in all seriousness believing that it could actually be worked out, greatly to the advantage of those who now pay city prices out of inadequate salaries):—

Let us form an association or syndicate of civil servants—those with about the average salary preferred, for the reason that community of interest would probably be a help toward success—and establish a model suburb of Ottawa on the new "town planning" lines.

You cannot afford space for a full discussion of this subject but let me

point out a few of the advantages with which we would start such a project.

(1) We have a great body of people to draw from, all seriously affected by this question of the cost of living, and all of whose breadwinners are employed under conditions which make it comparatively easy to spend half an hour on the train en route to and from the office morning and evening.

The development of Ottawa railways, the extension of trolley lines and the improvement and cheapening of the auto-car help to settle the problem of transportation.

Land could be had at a comparatively low price and admirably suited for the proposed colony within easy distance of the city on a good road and within easy reach of a railway station.

The increase in the value of the land by reason of its choice as the site of a new suburban village would furnish a fund which would more than recoup any expenditure in organizing the movement and establishing the people in their homes.

It is easy to imagine difficulties, and equally easy to imagine ways of overcoming those difficulties. It seems to me that all that is really needed is to have some bright and energetic young man take hold of the scheme. Far more difficult propositions have been put through by perseverance and common sense.

As to details, I have only two suggestions to make now:

(1) I think that the building lots for the new village should not be more than an acre, and in many cases a good deal less than an acre would be plenty.

(2) Conveniently located in the new community should be a practical and scientific farmer, with enough land to give him opportunity to earn a good living, but with little enough land to leave him free to earn a salary or fees by giving advice to the Colonists in the work of

gardening, poultry-raising and bee-keeping to which the majority would devote themselves.

I believe that to be members of such a community would be as good as an addition of at least \$300 a year to the income of the average family.

Will not *The Civilian* talk this thing up, and see if we cannot work out something for the benefit of Ottawa civil servants? If I can get two men to tell *The Civilian* that they will consider squarely joining such a movement, I shall be ready to give my name and announce myself as ready to hear one man's share of the expense and work of trying to work the plan out to success.

Meantime I remain, yours to command.

X. Y. Z.

OUR YESTERDAYS.

By the Old Armchair.

In the good old days, when the Civil Service was in a state of flux, before the commission had introduced the present golden era which lacks nothing but abuses, there was a department which those robust old jokers called the Department of Public Works. If we had such a department now—which proposition, as Euclid would say, is absurd—we would call it the Cave of Adullam, for “everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented” and lazy and incompetent gathered themselves unto it. The only trouble with such a state of things as the commission is responsible for is that we have become indolent. There are no longer any dragons to slay.

It is said—but Rumor is a proverbial liar—that the following code was acknowledged by that old Department, or at least by sections of it:—

In re the Civil Servant.
His Motto:

It is vain to rise up early and to sit up late and to eat the bread of carefulness.

His Creed:

They also serve who only sign and go. (With apologies to Milton.)

He is a fool who does not know how much the half of a day's work is better than the whole. (With apologies to Hesiod)

A man can't be independent unless he has a pull. (With apologies to Mr. Dooley.)

His Life:

As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean.

His Hope:

The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong.

As a sample of the way things were done, I quote a case that might be duplicated in any of the old files. Repairs were needed on a lock in a certain Department. A requisition on Public Works was filled out, initiated and passed to the deputy minister; he signed and handed it to the private secretary for the minister's countersign; this obtained, the requisition was mailed to the secretary of the Public Works Department, who entered it in his books and passed it to the chief architect of that Department. What other steps were taken is not exactly known; apparently it had to pass to the superintendent of Dominion buildings for an estimate, to the deputy minister and thence to the private secretary for the minister's approval. If the minister approved it, the requisition would return to the superintendent of Dominion buildings who would give an order to the Departmental workshop or to a locksmith. The cost of the lock would amount to a dollar or two. The last trace I find of the order, 18 months later, refers to it as still unfilled.

"Don't fancy I exaggerate;

"I got my news from the Chinese plate."

It seems droll now to think of our

predecessors sitting on drygoods boxes because the Department of Public Works was too busy to fill an order for chairs. That was their crowning pleasantry — the Department was too busy! The records show appeals to deputy ministers, whose unfailing answer (in effect) was, "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end". But the event has proved the honourable gentlemen wrong.

It is said that under the old system of not paying for things out of a Department's own appropriation, the most comical extravagance was encouraged. The records state that in one Department the stenographers all demanded roll top desks, which they got. On entering the room one could see no sign of life—nothing but roll top desks. The Minister was astonished by this sight one day and forthwith ordered that all the roll top desks should be replaced by flat ones. We may as well have what we don't have to pay for was presumably his argument.

"Now mind; I'm only telling you
"What the old Dutch clock declares
is true."

According to the records, while the Department of Public Works gave out supplies, the Department of Finance controlled the cleaning of the offices. Why the Department of Finance? Why not? said the March Hare. The system was that described by the Duchess to Alice. "Jam yesterday and tomorrow but never jam today." The offices were cleaned every *other* day, which, as the Duchess said, was never today.

Of course they knew nothing then about the germ theory of disease. It is therefore credible that the air in the Langevin Block for instance, should have been thick enough to cut with a knife. The story goes—I tell the tale as 'twas told to me and don't vouch for it that the clerks were provided with stout knives with which to cut their way out at

night. Tuberculosis cases were shut up in those crowded, hermetically sealed and unwashed rooms, and it is little wonder that the files show a constantly increasing list of applications for sick leave. Just think what a commotion a Civil Servant's application for sick leave would cause nowadays!

If we had to put up with some of the nuisances our fathers endured there would be a riot in no time. Perhaps, however, in gaining our ideal conditions we have lost something of the noble quality of patience.

Some of the buildings were so dark that the electric light was burned all day. I have heard survivors of that barbarous system say that the Government was experimenting on the eyes of its servants, on the basis of Darwin's theory that the more strain a member endures the stronger that member becomes. The idea was, I believe, to make human eyes learn to work in the dark. This, it was thought, would enable the Government to lengthen office hours and save artificial light. But the plan was frustrated by the impossibility of preventing the use of electricity. Possibly if the experiment had been tried long enough and artificial light refused, those of the civil servants who did not go blind would have developed cat's eyes. Humanity may rejoice in the outcome but science has reason to mourn. The opportunity has gone. The Civil Service Commission would never allow any such barbarous treatment of Government employes now, even in the interests of science.

At the time when Civil Servants were being exposed to disease germs and eye experiments, the factories of private corporations were subjected to severe Government inspection, to insure proper air, light and sanitary provision generally. This was probably before the Modern Reader's Bible was published, so we may suppose that the authorities knew nothing about the scriptural

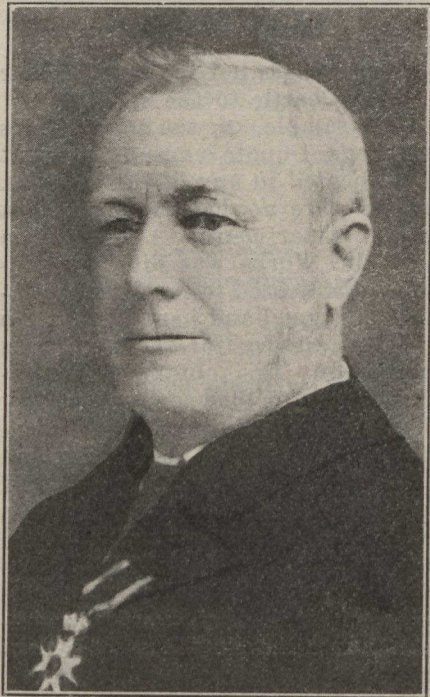
injunction concerning the beam in your own eye.

"I wasn't there; I merely state
"What was told to me by the
Chinese plate."

OUTSIDE SERVICE PORTRAITS.

NO. XVI.

The subject of this sketch is Mr. Isaac N. Mathers, Assistant Receiver General at Halifax, N.S.



MR. ISAAC N. MATHERS.

Mr. Mathers, who is one of the best known citizens of our most Easterly province, was born at Newry, Ireland, on June 11th, 1845. He was educated at Dundalk, where he won a 'Foundation' scholarship by competitive examination at the age of 13.

His early commercial training was received in Liverpool where he was employed in the large shipping

house of Francis Carvell & Son. In 1870 he came to Halifax to represent this concern, but soon branched out for himself and until his appointment to his present position in 1905 Mr. Mathers conducted a very large export business in lumber, lobsters, pulpwood and other Canadian commodities.

He has occupied many positions of trust. He was Vice Consul at Halifax for Norway and Sweden from 1882 to 1905. In 1904 on account of his long and faithful services in this capacity he was decorated by the King with the Order of St. Olaf, being the first Canadian to receive the honour. The decoration may be seen in the cut produced above. It is a 'restitutional' decoration; i.e. it must be returned at Mr. Mathers' death to the King of Norway. In 1895 he had the additional honour of being appointed Consul for Denmark.

When the late government appointed Mr. Mather as Assistant Receiver General the press of Halifax irrespective of party was unanimous in its endorsement and approval. So too were the citizens of all classes. His geniality, courtesy, and fund of humour are recognized throughout the length and breadth of Nova Scotia. In Halifax there is no more popular citizen.

As a further tribute to Mr. Mathers knowledge and experience in the shipping world the Dominion government in 1907 appointed him as the sole Canadian member on the Royal Commission on shipping rings, which sat in London.

Mr. Mathers is an Anglican in religion and has a family of five children, four sons and one daughter. One of the former is Deputy Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.

It is interesting to note just at this time that Mr. Mathers appears in a group photograph with Capt. Raold Amundsen who has, just discovered the South Pole. During the former's visit to London in 1907

a banquet was given to Capt. Amundsen by the Norwegians of London in honour of his having discovered the magnetic south. Dr. Nansen, the celebrated Arctic explorer—then ambassador at the Court of St. James—presided.

TO PHYLLIS.

(As he dictated it.)

Phyllis, up in the morning,
 Spirit of love and spring;
 Phyllis, lithe as the willow,
 Voice like the birds that sing;
 Phyllis, full of the sunshine,
 Sparkling like drops of dew;
 Phyllis, Phyllis, O Phyllis!
 This is a song for you.

Phyllis, why do you linger?
 Why do your feet remain?
 Phyllis, we wait your coming
 Over the bloom-decked plain.
 Phyllis—a brimming beaker
 Now your health we gauff,
 Setting our hearts all leaping
 Lighter than wind-blown chaff.

Do Fill Us.

(As his Stenographer took it.)

Fill us up in the morning,
 Spirits of loving spring!
 Fill us tight as a pillow—
 Boys like the birds that sing.
 Fill us full of moonshine,
 Sparkling like dropsy dew—
 Fill us, fill us, oh, fill us!
 This is too strong for you.

Fill us! why do you linger?
 Why are your feet in pain?
 Fill us! We wait your cuning
 Over the gloom-necked plain.
 Fill us a brimming beaker
 Now to your healthy graft,
 Sending our hartshorn leaping
 Light as a ringboned calf.

—From *The Shorthand Reporter*.

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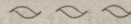
Ottawa, March 22, 1912

A CAREER.

Many people seem to think that the way to make the civil service career attractive to the best men is to afford great prizes of money and fame for those who work most effectively. This undoubtedly is one way to do it and no objection can be raised to such a course reasonably carried out. But it is not the only way, nor is it the quickest. The man or woman who serves the whole people of Canada even in a minor capacity is engaged in work of high importance. To say that good work in the service often goes unrecognized or unrewarded by the people for whom it is performed is only to say that the civil servant runs the same risk of failure as the man outside, for the world is full of people who do their daily work efficiently, and lend a hand to help on many good

public causes, who nevertheless are not heard of outside their own respective circles. It is only once in a generation that some John Maynard gets into literature, but that generation would have gone to pieces had there not been John Maynards everywhere doing their duty and facing the dangers that came their way.

It is not all of a career to stand before an applauding crowd and receive honors and rewards for duty done. To do the work is the main point. And in the civil service, as in the world at large, the man who merely devotes himself whole heartedly to his daily task runs an even chance even with the greatest pickthank to gain the greatest applause and the highest substantial rewards.



CIVIL SERVICE COLONY.

The proposal of our correspondent, "X Y Z," to make a model suburb for civil servants is one of those dreams the realization of which is mainly a matter of determination on the part of those who think the thing worth while. It is easy to design Utopias, and very pleasant, too. But the actual building is a different matter.

In spite of all that is done and said, the movement of population is townward, not countryward. Even in the new regions, the cities are growing more rapidly than any part of the country. And the invention of the apartment house means that people are tending more and more toward the centres even of the cities.

But, though the greater forces seem to draw people toward the towns, there are undoubtedly forces, though minor ones, that draw a certain number the other way. It is not necessary to the success of a model suburb that all Ottawa civil servants, or even the service here as a body, should take up residence within its borders. Even a small number settling in one locality, and prepared to pay for the services

of transportation, education and other things required in common, would make a beginning. It is the beginning, however, that is the difficulty. If a beginning can be made, then the civil service will have its own little town, which will grow as other towns grow.



“THE TEN DEMANDMENTS.”

For gross worldly wisdom it would be difficult to surpass the “Ten Demandments” hanging in one of the many salmon canneries at Steveston, in Western Canada. They are reprinted in the *Toronto Globe* as follows, and *mutatis mutandis* may be read with profit by civil servants:

1. Don't lie. It wastes my time and yours. I am sure to catch you in the end, and that is the wrong end.

2. Watch your work, not the clock. A long day's work makes a long day short; and a short day's work makes my face long.

3. Give me more than I expect and I will give you more than you expect. I can afford to increase your pay if you increase my profits.

4. You owe so much to yourself you cannot afford to owe anybody else. Keep out of debt, or keep out of my shops.

5. Dishonesty is never an accident. Good men, like good women, never see temptation when they meet it.

6. Mind your own business, and in time you'll have a business of your own to mind.

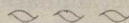
7. Don't do anything here which hurts your self-respect. An employee who is willing to steal for me is willing to steal from me.

8. It is none of my business what you do at night. But if dissipation affects what you do next day and you do half as much as I demand, you'll last half as long as you hoped.

9. Don't tell me what I'd like to

hear, but what I ought to hear. I don't want a valet for my vanity, but one for my dollars.

10. Don't kick if I kick. If you're worth while correcting you're worth while keeping. I don't waste time cutting specks out of rotten apples.



CHAMP CLARK ON SUPERANNUATION.

The Hon. Champ Clark, who is known to Canadians, has lately taken a strong stand on the superannuation issue. His characteristic utterance before the United States House of Representatives of which he is Speaker is as follows:

“One of the crowning glories of the statecraft, the philosophy, the humanitarianism, and the religion of the twentieth century will, I am fain to hope, be the discovery of some plan whereby every man, and every woman, too, shall enjoy the usufruct of his own labor, and which will prevent one man from becoming the beneficiary of the toil, energy, talent, and sweat of many men, women, and children. Indeed, we can already see signs of the solution of this vast and intricate problem in the experiments being made in the cooperative plan of distribution of profits among employers and their employees, as well as in the various pension systems being inaugurated by some of the great railroad companies for their employees disabled by disease, accidents, or old age. The Federal Government might take a lesson from the great corporations and from other countries on the treatment of its superannuated employees.”



THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

The Royal Commission on the civil service has completed its preliminary hearings of the views of the

civil service bodies which centre at Ottawa. The local association of the inside service has presented its case at length, and the federation executive has more recently covered those matters which pertain to the service as a whole—including the important subject of superannuation. Nothing could have been more encouraging than the reception accorded to these representations on behalf of the service. Not only has every facility been offered for the presentation of memoranda and evidence, but the commission has displayed the keenest desire to ascertain the attitude of the service on the various points and has encouraged and in fact prompted the most thorough-going discussion. Whatever the outcome, the service will not be able to complain of any lack of sympathetic endeavour on the part of the commission to get at the facts. And as no claim has been put forward that is not just and reasonable, and in the interests of the public as well, we feel we may again express our satisfaction with the opportunity which the appointment of the commission represents and for the present to expect the future with equanimity.

WAGES UPWARD IN BRITISH POSTAL SERVICE.

Wages advances in the British Post Office in the last twenty-five years have been rapid and continuous. Here are some of the figures:—

	1885.	1910.
Sorters (male)	28s. 5d.	50s. 7d.
C. T. O. Telegraphists (male)	28s. 10d.	50s. 10d.
C. T. O. Telegraphists (female)	22s. 10d.	29s. 8d.
Counter Clerks and Telegraphists (male)	34s. 5d.	49s. 0d.
Counter Clerks and Telegraphists (female)	21s. 11d.	31s. 9d.

These sums represent the average payment in each class. The increases are eyond any rise in the cost of living. Here we have at least one branch of a public service in which

stagnation of wages cannot be alleged.

CIVIL SERVICE SAVINGS AND LOAN SOCIETY.

The following is a statement of the business of the Society for the month of Feb., 1912:—

Cash Received.

On shares	\$289 00
Deposits	250 00
Loans repaid	865 44
Interest on loans	56 84
	\$1,461 28

Cash Disbursed.

Shares refunded	\$125 00
Deposits withdrawn	19 85
Loans made	575 00
	\$719 85

Total resources (approx.) Feb. 29, 1912, \$8,463.

Members admitted during month, 4.

The Civil Service Savings and Loan Society has been experiencing steady and healthy growth, as will be seen from an examination of the items appearing in *The Civilian* from time to time. The Society was first organized to oust the money-shark from the service. This has already been well-nigh accomplished, and there is now no longer any need for his operations at all. The Society has, perhaps, sufficient funds to supply the need of every worthy civil servant so far as small personal loans are concerned, which formerly proved to be the harvest field for Shylocks. Any civil servant with an honest reputation may now get any little accommodation on terms both reasonable and convenient. In fact, it is just possible that the Society might even now be able to advance some capital to members desirous of procuring a home for themselves. This is an object scarcely less worthy than the elimination of the money-sharks.

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A Ballade of Bad Memory.

By *Silas Wegg.*

Much have I learned and as much forgot,—

Places, and dates, and the names of things,

Where and when were old battles fought,

Who were the captains, who the kings.

Little I learn to my memory elings,

For my mind has an easy exit door;

And just to show how it ever swings,—

What are these threads on my fingers for?

Something to buy? Ah, where to be bought?

Letters to post? How the mad doubt stings

Like a hornet in haste when the days are hot

And the sweat on the brow as a freshet springs.

Am I to call on the Bangs' or the Bings'?

Tell me for once and I ask no more.

Grant me release from these murmurings,—

What are these threads on my fingers for?

Many and strange, some slack, some taut,

Are the finger-fetters my good frau brings,

Tying them each with a wondrous knot,

Just as I start on the morning's wings.

Here at my desk I gaze at the strings,

Puzzled, perplexed, till my brain in a roar

To the tune of one question continually rings,—

What are these threads on my fingers for?

Homeward at night I slowly trot,

Conscious my frau will give me some flings.

She calls each thread a forget-me-knot,

And hints of unhappy marryings.

Vainly I talk of the happenings

And tell the gossip of street and store;

Even in sleep a weird voice dings,—

What are these threads on my fingers for?

L'ENVOI.

SATAN, if ever thine underlings

Touch up a spot that is extra sore,

I shall not feel it if some one sings,—

What are these threads on my fingers for?

Canadians Lick More Than Half a Billion Stamps per Year.

From the Ottawa Citizen.

Over 500,000,000 stamps were licked in Canada in the year of Our Lord, 1909, the latest twelve months on record.

So says the government statistician, that painstaking man beside the orderly working of whose mind the wonders of the most modern adding machine pale into insignificance.

He further tells us that during the same twelve month period 584,264,774 little colored representations of the outward semblance of His Gracious Majesty the King were issued by the Canadian post office department. In an outburst of sudden communicativeness he goes guarantee for the statement that the postage stamp branch of the department today is handling stamps to the total value of ten millions of dollars per year. If you can take him aside in a dark corner and gain his confidence he may even assure you there were, according to the last report in his hands, 12,887 post offices in operation within the boundaries of the Dominion of Canada.

With the enunciation of these bare facts, however, the government statistician has reached his limit. He has been brought up on the frugal fare that lies between the covers of bluebooks and which is, as heaven and every person knows, not stimulating to the imagination. If you want to learn something of the romance that lies behind some of the hard facts with which this statistician person juggles you will have to go deeper than government reports can take you, and that is why this article is written.

A Great "Sticker."

Josh Billings, the American humorist, commented on the untiring perseverance of the stamp.

"Consider the postage stamp, my son," said Josh. "It sticks to one thing till it gets there."

One could not better express the whole function and duty in life of the common postage stamp. A corporal's guard could not better escort your letter to its destination than the little two cent certificate you stick in its upper right-hand corner before dropping it through the post box's narrow slit. One does not need to recall the well known tale of the sending of the famous Kohinoor diamond through His Majesty's mail to appreciate the almost inevitability with which the workings of the post office department are carried on. The whole force of government is arrayed behind you when you entrust to it even so small a thing as a picture postcard.

Why, for instance, does a stamp "stick to one thing till it gets there?" Because years of costly experiment have resulted in the production of a mucilage that will hold true to its trust in the frigid regions of which Dr. Cook has told us or the torrid temperatures in which some of us a little nearer the equator have sweltered.

Keeping Tab on the Issue.

How do they keep track of stamps? That is perhaps one of the most common inquiries heard from the user of these little postal certificates, and who is not? Well, in the first place, they, or more correctly the postage stamp branch of the post office department, do claim to perform the seemingly almost impossible feat. For stamps are money—in fact they represent nothing else to the government. They are a promise to pay, even if the sum involved is only a cent and not commonly regarded as legal tender. Therefore it is that the most stringent precautions are exercised not

only in the issuing of stamps but in the recalling of mutilated and in some cases perfectly good stamps, and their final destruction.

To better facilitate the work Canadian post offices are divided into "accounting" and "non-accounting" offices. The department deals directly with the former, and through them with the others. Each accounting office receives its quota of stamps from the department and distributes them to the smaller offices in its district according to the estimates of the postmasters of the latter as to the amounts required. Long years of experience have enabled the officials at Ottawa accurately to estimate the relative proportion of each kind of stamp likely to be needed in the ordinary run of things to supply these smaller offices. Occasionally requisitions of unusual proportions for some particular denomination are received. This excites inquiry and in some cases has proved a very valuable help in the detection of incorrect rating of mail matter by postmasters.

Cremation Ceremony.

The stamp branch itself receives its stamps by contract, the number required being governed by commercial conditions. They are counted and checked before being placed in the vaults, and extraordinary care is even there taken to safeguard them. The detection of any mistakes in the number of stamps received or of any imperfection in the manufacture is immediately followed by an elaborate reaudit. A damaged or shop-worn stamp, just as is done with mutilated bills, is destroyed immediately on re-entry into stock. Rather a quaint little ceremony features this part of the stamp branch's work. On the day appointed the auditor-general's office sends an official to the branch to check over the stamps consigned for destruction. All having been found correct the latter are borne to the furnace room and there offered up on the altar of

good government, while just as though the victims were human, a "death" certificate is given showing that the procedure has been carried out with due form.

Reaching the Public.

Now as to the selling of stamps to the public. A little thought would at once indicate the importance of this part of postage stamp work. The public revenue must be protected, and the public itself given every facility for the purchase of stamps of every denomination required. These two objects are attained by the granting of licenses and permits, the former for large, and the latter for smaller vendors. A commission of one per cent. is allowed to the holder of a license, but the ease of permit holders the opportunity it affords to attract trade is considered both by the branch and the holders themselves sufficient recompense. This system of licenses and permits prevents the illegal disposal of any large quantity of stamps for money. This is why the burglar who succeeds in blowing the safe in a post office only to find stamps and nothing but stamps considers — at any rate if he has had any experience at the game—his whole work gone for nothing. It would really be easier to dispose of the crown jewels than their equivalent in Canadian postage stamps.

The Mechanical Vendor.

But there is one class of vendor to assure whose honesty neither license nor permit requires to be issued, a seller of stamps who is on the job day and night, at all seasons of the year, and never makes a mistake. Those who have ever noticed or been called upon to use one of the little red painted penny-in-the-slot stamp machines on duty outside most public post offices in the larger cities, and every year coming into more general use, need no further explanation. It is only another triumph of the scientific mind used to further

the work of the post office department.

Just as stamps are money the workings of the postage stamp branch are closely modelled on those of any of our large banking institutions. The best post office official is the man who has spent his life in the service of the department, and has climbed the ladder of its various grades over the rungs of experience. He is the man who can keep his head when the rush season—and only the stamp branch knows what the rush season means—comes with its sudden but enormous acceleration of work and the great public lifts up its voice to demand stamps, stamps, and still more stamps. Stamps to affix to Christmas missives or conduct to its destination the billet doux of a valentine; stamps to serve more sordid ends such as the making of preliminary arrangements for the movement of the year's crop and

the issuing of commercial catalogs, stamps, in fact, for every conceivable purpose, for even if we disregard the philatelist who loves stamps for their own sake and gloats over them in an album there is the perverted genius who sticks them over walking canes and shellsacs the whole to produce a work of art.

Most of us regard stamps as stamps but the discerning mind can find in their yearly increase an accurate register of the country's progress and in per capita consumption an evidence of the culture of its inhabitants. Incidentally it may be noted in this regard that the relative number of stamps used, and therefore the number of letters written by Canada's eight million people is, comparatively speaking, almost a world record. Canada is a country of magnificent distances and they have to be bridged.

Third Division Clerks (inside service) Who Passed Examinations Under Old System.

MARINE AND FISHERIES.

List of Clerks who passed both Qualifying and Promotion Examinations.

Messrs. L. F. Gorman, P. W. Foy, Miss A. Grace Tanner, Messrs. P. R. White, J. D. Lavergne, A. H. Dame, Emile Dansereau, Miss A. O'Connor, Miss E. Edmonds, Miss J. Brais.

List of Clerks who passed qualifying Examination alone.

Messrs. J. M. Skuce, C. E. Goodall, W. Casey, F. J. Boulay, G. Piteau, H. Grignon, L. L. Maten, Misses H. M. Percival, G. M. Graham, M. Lafleur, M. G. Taylor, B. Blount, J. Clarke, M. Wainright, Bernadette Layeux, A. Traversy, A. A. Rochon.

PUBLIC PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

List of Clerks who passed both Qualifying and Promotion Examinations.

Messrs. G. Ardouin, P. A. Gay, J. F. Dowling, V. Braceland.

List of Clerks who passed qualifying examination alone.

Messrs. D. Beahen, J. F. Neville, G. P. Andrews, E. A. O'Connor, C. B. Snelling, A. J. Sawyer, J. A. Rear-don.

RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

List of Clerks who passed both Qualifying and Promotion Examinations.

Messrs. F. W. Addy, C. E. Bleakney, W. P. Harty, Robt. Norman, Chas. Buckley, Miss Rose Weeks.

List of Clerks who passed qualifying examination alone.

Mr. Wm. L. Ryan, Miss F. Costin, Mrs. Lyons, Messrs. W. A. O'Leary, John Kerr, Misses D. Helmer M. A. Mahon, Stanistreet, Mr. W. T. O'Regan.

Correspondence.

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

Postage Stamps.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Although you had some months ago an article touching upon the subject of postage stamps and their issue by the Postage Stamp Branch of the P. O. Department, the enclosed "write up" clipped from the *Evening Citizen* of the 2nd instant seems to be worthy of reprinting in your columns. The writer might well have taken his facts from the P. M. G.'s Report of 1910-1911, as the increase was sufficiently marked as to be noticeable. For instance, in the stamp issue alone for the fiscal year 1910-1911, the output was 608,712,994 stamps as against the number given in the article. This, of course, does not include the other items, such as post cards, &c., issued by the branch annually. And then, instead of ten million dollars worth of stamps, &c., being handled, there was, during 1910-1911, over eleven million dollars worth issued to the postmasters of the Dominion. For the fiscal year ending 31st March next, judging from present indications, the twelve million dollar mark will be reached. Such is the progress and expansion of our country, of which the use of the postage stamp is a pretty accurate index.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. C.

P. O. Dept.

Ottawa, 5th March, 1912.

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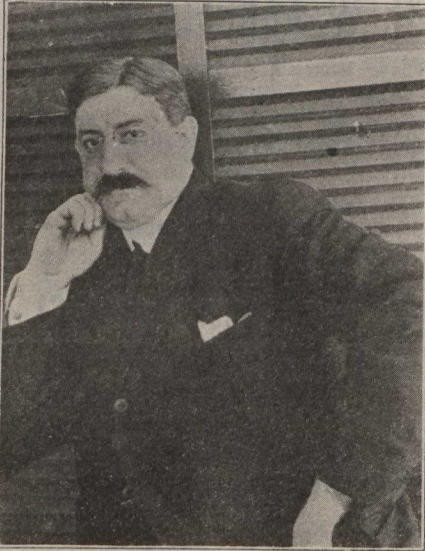
TORONTO CUSTOMS NOTES.

Death has claimed still another member of the Customs staff, in the person of Mr. Thomas Williams, who died in St. Michael's Hospital, on March 6th, aged 73 years. Mr. Williams had been a most faithful and efficient Civil Servant. He was also a musician, having been for years in the band of the Royal Grenadiers. A daughter died only a few weeks ago. Mr. Williams was a member of the Church of England and of the A.O.U.W. and was held in the very highest esteem.

An instance of Lord Palmerston's urbane wit was his rebuke to some of his clerks. The proprietress of a dressmaking establishment near Palmerston's department complained that the clerks had been insulting her workgirls by flashing sunlight from looking glasses in their eyes. 'What is this I hear, gentlemen,' said Palmerston, 'about your casting reflections on the young ladies opposite?'

CIVIL SERVICE CLUB NOTES.

In the notes of last issue mention was made of the fact that Mr. Frank J. P. Crean had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical So-



FRANK J. P. CREAN.

ciety on account of his research work around the Hudson Bay. The *Civilian* has pleasure in this issue of producing a photo of this gentleman who is one of the directors of the Club.

Mr. Crean is an Irishman from Dublin, who first saw the light in 1875. After his course at the Royal College of Service he came to Canada and engaged in the exciting life of a cow-boy. He enlisted and served in the South African war in Roberts' Horse, and the C. M. Rifles. Returning to Canada he practiced as a Civil Engineer in the prairie provinces and British Columbia. In 1908 Mr. Crean was engaged by the Railway Lands Branch, of the Department of Interior, and since that time has been doing exploratory work.

Mr. E. S. Bushy, formerly Customs Inspector in British Columbia, but recently appointed to the new position of Superintending Inspector at Ottawa has been elected a member of the Club.

Mr. E. V. Johnston, of the Department of Railways and Canals, has also been added to the membership.

BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE.

Do New Laws Deny the Principle of Merit?

It is the fashion with many people in this country to give the British civil service as the last word in the struggle against the spoils system. The idea of appointments otherwise than by merit, it is said, would not be tolerated or even considered by the British public. The discussion gives one the impression of a finished organization of public servants conservatively yet efficiently carrying on its business, as free from interference by politicians as the workman at his bench. But recent laws have immensely extended the bounds of government employment. The valuation of all the lands of Britain, made necessary under the famous Lloyd George budget, the old age pensions, and now the universal insurance of working people, have called for the appointment of thousands of officials. And complaint is made that these appointments are in the hands of the government alone. Caustic indeed are some of the comments on this point made by opponents of the Asquith government. In relation to the insurance bill, *The Civilian*, of Great Britain, has the following to say on this subject. Incidentally, it is worth while to notice with what freedom this "accredited organ of the civil service" criticizes both government and opposition:

"It certainly cannot be claimed

of Ministerialists that the provisions have been adequately discussed. Still, the whole attitude of the Opposition, from the very moment of the Bill's introduction to the present time, has been marked by indecision and doubt.

"If professions count for anything, the Government have washed their hands of political patronage. In spite of the pious exclamations of Mr. Sydney Buxton and Mr. Lloyd George, they must be conscious all the time of the unlimited opportunities allowed to the Insurance Commissioners to misuse their discretion, to say the least. By the tacit admission of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Insurance Commissioners are to be, to all intents and purposes, above the law. Apart from a really phantom supervision of the Treasury, if it really amounts to that, this small clique of "omnipotents" are to interpret the Act by administrative procedure, juggle with its provisions, and appoint their own staffs. By only a very long stretch of the imagination can the Insurance Commissioner be termed a servant of the public. This is officialism run mad. A word or two on the appointment of the subordinate Insurance officials. On the report stage, Mr. Philip Snowden made a suggestion that while the technical appointments might be at the discretion of the Commissioners, the subordinate officers who will do work of a clerical or purely administrative character should be filled by ordinary Civil Service methods. "Hansard" reports an extraordinary incident. True to his innate method of dallying with criticism, Mr. Lloyd George became the very apotheosis of conciliation. He undertook to pass the suggestion on to the Commissioners! Mr. Lloyd George delegates his own responsibility to the Insurance Commissioners. He rushes a Bill through Committee and leaves to the Commissioners the task of formulating a method by which the immense patronage involved in the scheme

will be disposed. We cannot congratulate Mr. Lloyd George on his new legislative precedent."

"THE POST OFFICE AND ITS STORY."

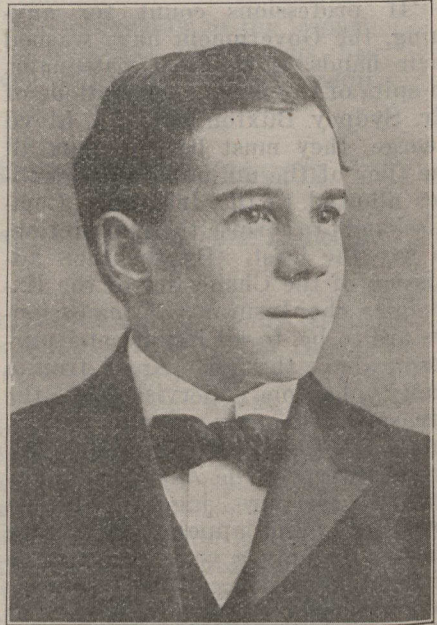
This chronicle of the Post Office by Edward Bennett (Messrs. Seeley & Co., price 5s. net) is not only interesting but amusing: stories of quaint customs, letters, and incidents abound. The first Master of the Post was one Brian Tuke, appointed by Henry VIII. in 1509, when a regular service was formed between London and Berwick, and London and Calais. The mails were carried by runners, who were mounted when the road, chiefly a causeway between two ditches, permitted it, otherwise on foot. Coaches were not used by the Post Office till Palmer, of Bath, induced Pitt to start the first mail coach between London and Bristol, in August, 1784; the success was so great that in a few years mail coaches ran to all parts of the kingdom; fifty years later railways took the mails, and the great road industry collapsed. The institution of the penny post by Sir Rowland Hill was made possible by the rapid increase of railways, which facilitated the carriage of letters. It is curious to learn that prepayment of correspondence roused the greatest opposition to the scheme. The first General Post Office was built in the 16th century. In 1829 the premises in St. Martin's-le-Grand were opened, in 1873 the General Post Office West, and in 1895 the huge G.P.O. North was completed. These three immense buildings were insufficient for the work, and in 1910 the staff migrated to King Edward's Buildings. Here 20,000 clerks are employed, and 366 tons of correspondence per week pass through its doors. The travelling post office, a miracle of ingenuity to our grandfathers, now contains sorters, typists, and all the latest im-

provements. The parcel post was first started in 1883. Amusing instances of phonetic directions are given: Sir Nicolas Dustyschool, was St. Nicholas Industrial School. Letters and parcels imperfectly addressed, and consequently undelivered, during the year ending March, 1910, reached the amazing total of 31,241,000. Among them nearly 400,000 contained money in cheques, stamps, and postal orders, jewellery, and articles of value. The foreign and colonial branch of the Post Office is a very complicated affair, the difficulties being increased by the inability of many of the holders to understand our system. The extra work entailed by "Limericks" may be gauged by the increase of 23,000,000 postal orders in 1908, and the falling off of 10,000,000 in 1909. The Post Office Savings Bank has been of immense value to the country, and, with the introduction of home safes, has done much to foster thrift. The chapter on the telegraph and telephone are very interesting, and the history of the colonial post, from the days when letters were left under stones to be taken to Europe by the next fleet, reads like a story-book. A pigeon post in New Zealand attained a high degree of efficiency, but is now superseded by wireless telegraphy. A large proportion of the post office clerks are women, and the general efficiency of the staff has justified their appointment. Space only allows us to mention the chapters on head postmen, old-age pensions, &c., and the amusing letters we should like to quote. Enough has been written to show that this history of a great department, tells also of its influence in distant places of the Empire, and the civilizing power it maintains.—*The Contemporary Review*.

THE FORTNIGHT IN SPORT.

The photo included in this article is that of Mr. T. J. Morin, one

of the staff of the Immigration Branch, of the Department of the Interior. Mr. Morin is the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Ottawa Ski Club, an organization which lately brought off a most successful meet



Mr. T. J. MORIN.

of ski runners at the club's slide. Rockcliffe, on Saturday afternoon, March 9th. A great deal of labor devolved on Mr. Morin in arranging this enjoyable exhibition. It is estimated that fully 10,000 spectators were present on an ideal Canadian winter afternoon. Olsen, the Norwegian resident of Montreal, who had on the previous Saturday won the championship of Canada, was present and again distinguished himself. There were also competitors from Berlin Mills, N.H. The results were:

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

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Early in the fall, the well known hockey player, Bruce Ridpath, was run down by an automobile while in Toronto and seriously hurt. Of late there have been several proposals in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa to have some benefit hockey matches for Ridpath—but so far all have fallen through. As the present winter season appears to have been a good one for all the clubs, *The Civilian* would suggest that each contribute \$250 for Ridpath, which would make a purse of \$1,000.



In amateur circles, the Eaton Club of Toronto, winners of the O.N.A. series went to Winnipeg only to be vanquished by the Victoria Club of that City.

Some recent results have been:—

Ottawa Valley champions—Rockland.

Ottawa Church League — McKay Church.

Russell County League—Vars Team. Interprovincial champions — New Edinburgh team, Ottawa.

Allan cup winners — Victorias of Winnipeg.

The history of the Allan Cup is short. In 1909 Sir Montague Allan of Montreal, donated the cup as an emblem of championship in purely amateur hockey, as the Stanley Cup had become a professional game trophy (although it is much to be doubted whether Lord Stanley ever contemplated this.)

Queen's University won it first; then St. Michael's of Toronto; then the Victorias of Winnipeg, who now retain it for another year, having this winter alone defeated Saskatoon, Port Arthur, Eatons of Toronto, Calgary and Regina.

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