

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. VI.

APRIL 3, 1914.

No. 25

ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERATION.

The minister of finance, in his recent meeting with the representatives of the federation, desired to be furnished with a brief statement of the views of the various portions of the service at present under the Civil Service Act. The secretary of the federation furnished this memoranda on March 21st. The case for the post office was made out in the identical terms as published a fortnight ago. The inland revenue case, with a few minor changes, and the insertion of a plea for the merit system, was the same as printed in the minutes of the December convention, and reported in *The Civilian* of December 12th.

The memorandum from the outside customs service embodies a number of variations from the December memorial, and is here given in full:—

(1) That the following amended classification of the outside customs service be taken under consideration, in the endeavor to bring this service more in harmony with the classification of the inside service, and to meet the increased cost of living:—

Collectors	\$ 500 to	4,500
Surveyors	1,600 to	3,200
Senior chief clerks	2,400 to	3,200
Chief clerks	2,100 to	2,800
Senior clerks	1,600 to	2,100
Clerks	1,000 to	1,600
Appraisers	1,400 to	2,800
Assistant appraisers and gaugers	1,200 to	2,100
Tides surveys, asst. sur...	1,200 to	2,100
Ch. lookers & ch. ldg. wrs.	1,200 to	1,800
Landing waiters	800 to	1,400
Examining officers	800 to	1,200
Messengers, packers, sor- ters	600 to	1,000

(2) That the annual increase be made statutory, and that it be at least 10% of the salary, with a maximum of \$100 for all classes, and only withheld on the detrimental report of the commissioner of customs.

(3) That the compensation for overtime be increased from 30c. to 40c. per hour.

(4) That a living allowance of 15% be granted to all officers west of the great lakes, to offset the increased cost of living.

(5) That the government take under consideration the advisability of adopting the advantages of the merit system in appointments and promotions in the customs outside service, and that the government recognize the principle that, in case of vacancies in all positions subordinate to those of collectorships (excepting those of technical officer), such positions shall be filled by the promotion of men in the service who may be duly qualified.

In consequence of representations made by the secretaries of postal clerks' associations, the secretary of the federation forwarded to the postmaster-general a "supplementary memorial" in the form of a letter embodying the following three items of some interest and importance:—

(1) A request that the term "porter" in city post offices be changed to "despatcher."

(2) A request from the office in Halifax that post offices of such a size be allowed one 1st class grade A clerkship.

(3) A request from the west that the \$120.00 provisional allowance to the western clerks be made staple and unchangeable, and not reduced to a percentage basis, the desirability for this change being very strongly expressed by your officers.

* * *

The views of the inside service, involving many complicated problems, is embodied in the following communication, and, in addition, the latest memorial of the third division, brought to a conclusion the memoranda forwarded to the minister by the secretary of the federation:—

Ottawa, 21st March, 1914.

Hon. W. T. White, M.P.,

Minister of Finance:

Sir,—In accordance with your request for a brief memorandum of any changes to the Civil Service Act desired by the Civil Service Association of Ottawa (inside service), we have the honor to submit the following as *a few of the more important changes* which we would like to have embodied in the bill, viz.:—

Third Division—

The removal of the grave injustice done to those employees who were placed in the third division by the act of 1908, and who (as an exception to the general rule) were permitted, under sub-section 2 of section 26 of the act, to be promoted into the second division, if duly recommended therefor, without the necessity of taking the open competitive examination, which advantage was nullified by regulation 20 of the civil service commission, which requires such persons to pass an examination “substantially equivalent” to that from which they were exempted by the act. (See memorial of third division employees attached hereto.)

Reorganization of the Service—

A thorough reorganization and reclassification of every department on a uniform basis, by a competent body, such reorganization to be based upon the nature of work performed, and not upon amount of salary received by employees.

Superannuation and Insurance—

As the bill to amend the Insurance Act has already been laid before the house, and the superannuation bill is daily expected, the only reference that we desire to make to these subjects at the present time is to express the appreciation of the women’s branch of the association (membership 500), as well as that of the parent association, of the provisions of the Civil Service Insurance Bill, whereby the benefits of the Insurance Act are extended to the women of the service, and to express

the earnest hope that the benefits of the Superannuation Act will also be extended to the women in a similar manner. (See their memorandum attached).

Promotions—

Our association is strongly in favor of promotions by merit alone, and believes that this cannot be attained except under the control of an independent board, such as the civil service commission. We would, therefore, suggest that the present method of requiring a certificate of qualification be dispensed with, and that hereafter all promotions be placed under the control of the civil service commission, reconstituted as provided for by the act of 1911-12 (appointment of a third member), and endowed with fuller powers. It is our firm conviction that the admitted difficulties which have arisen in the past in regard to promotions have been largely, if not altogether, due to the imperfect constitution and insufficient powers of the commission.

Vacancies in the First Division—

Considerable dissatisfaction and discouragement have been experienced in the past through the method frequently followed of filling such vacancies from outside the service, instead of by promotion, as provided by section 25 of the act. Possibly the provisions of the act in this respect could be made more effective to the prevention of this practice in the future.

Salaries—

We earnestly solicit a readjustment of the present salary scale, and an increase in the amount of the annual increments in all sub-divisions below the first division, with a view to offsetting, to some extent, the heavy burden placed upon the salaried classes by the continuous increase in the cost of living since the present scale of salaries was enacted.

In presenting the above suggestions for your consideration, we feel justified in stating our belief that they

THE CAUSE

Extend organization to every portion of Canada and to every branch of the service.

Establish a publicity bureau to supply copy to all newspapers in order to correct erroneous impressions, and to form a more truthful public opinion regarding the service, its personnel and its problems.

Exhort and pray the government to establish a permanent civil service minister, with a sufficient staff to study exclusively the service, its personnel and its problems.

Exhort and pray the government, or the civil service minister, to intend the merit system to all portions of the service, outside and inside.

Exhort and pray the government, or the civil service minister, to increase the efficiency of the civil service commission, by adding to its numbers a strong man chosen from the civil service.

Exhort and pray the government, or the civil service minister, to extend to civil servants the right of appeal, either to a board constituted in part of civil servants, or to a judge of the supreme court.

fairly represent the opinion of a very large proportion, if not of the majority of the inside service, inasmuch as our association has a membership of about 2,500, or fully two-thirds of the total number, the executive committee being composed of 36 representatives elected by 24 out of the 29 departments of the public service.

In conclusion, we beg to thank you, sir, for this opportunity of placing our views, however briefly and imperfectly, before you, and trust that another opportunity may be afforded us later on of explaining them in greater detail if deemed necessary.

We have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servants,

ARTHUR PARE, President,

WALTER TODD, Secretary,
Civil Service Association of Ottawa.

THE WRONG DELINQUENT.

An impetuous inspector who was visiting a provincial school was much worried by the noise of the scholars in the next room. At length, unable to bear the uproar any longer, he opened the door and burst upon the class. Seeing one boy taller than the others talking a great deal, he caught him by the collar, hustled him to the next room, and placed him in a chair, saying: "Now, sit there and be quiet!" Ten minutes later a small head appeared round the door and a meek little voice said: "Please, sir, you've got our teacher!"

Civilian Portraits.

The above picture is taken from a snapshot of Hon. Senator Lawrence S. Power, of Halifax, by one of our contributors, while the senator was walking around the parliament buildings recently.

Senator Power has proven himself a true friend of the civil service. He is chairman of the Senate committee on civil service administration, and in that capacity drafted a superan-



HON. L. S. POWER.

uation bill, the principles of which were strongly endorsed by the service. It may not be generally known that the senator was the author and the sponsor of the bills which afterwards became the Militia and Mounted Police Pension Acts.

With the exception of Senator McDonald, of Cape Breton, who has missed two sessions, Senator Power is the senior member of the upper house, in date of appointment.

With the exception of the cabinet representative in the Senate, Hon. J. A. Lougheed, no senator was ever

appointed at so young an age as Senator Power.

He also enjoys the anomalous distinction of being the only senator in Canada who sat in the upper house while his father was a member of the lower chamber. At the time of his appointment to the Senate, Mr. P. Power, father of the senator, was M. P. for Halifax.

A GREAT MINISTER.

From Votes and Proceedings of
March 27th.

MR. PELLETIER.—On Monday next—in committee of the whole—the following proposed resolution:—

Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the Civil Service Act and the amendments thereto so as to provide that the minimum salary of clerks in city post offices, the offices of post office inspectors, the offices of superintendents of railway mail service, and the money order exchange office, shall be \$600 on appointment; and that the annual increase for any such clerk shall be increased to \$100 a year; and that if the salary of any temporary or permanent clerk in the said offices is, on the 1st April, 1914, less than \$600, it shall forthwith be increased to that amount; and that the salary of any person who may be employed temporarily in any of the said offices for a period of not more than one year, who has not passed the required examination, shall be at the rate of \$600 a year.

MR. PELLETIER.—On Monday next—in committee of the whole—the following proposed resolution:—

Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the Post Office Act, and to provide (a) that the minimum salary of railway mail clerks appointed on probation shall be at the rate of \$600 a year, and on confirmation shall be at the rate of \$700 a year, with annual increases of \$100 thereafter un-

til the maximum of \$1,400 is reached; (b) for the temporary employment of railway mail clerks for a period of not more than one year, at a salary of \$600 and mileage allowance; (c) for the appointment of temporary railway mail clerks as permanent clerks, with a salary not exceeding that which they received as such temporary clerks, and eligible for the usual annual increases for the period from the date of their appointment until their salaries amount to \$1,000, but not eligible for an increase above \$1,000 until they pass the qualifying examination; (d) that if the salary of any railway mail clerk, temporary or permanent, is, on the 1st April, 1914, less than \$600, it shall forthwith be increased to that amount.

* * *

Boosts for Western Railway Mail Clerks.

Western railway mail clerks are to receive a large increase in their salaries. Thomas J. Kneebone, secretary of the Manitoba Railway Mail Clerks' Association, on March 24th, received a wire from the postmaster-general, Hon. L. P. Pelletier, stating: "An order-in-council was passed Saturday giving the western railway mail clerks the same living allowance as is given to other postal employees in the west."

This gives western mail clerks a straight living allowance of \$15 a month in addition to their salaries.

A NEW MEMBER FOR THE FEDERATION.

Ottawa Post Office Clerks Hold Annual Meeting.

A reorganization meeting of the Ottawa Postal Clerks' Association took place on Monday evening, the 23rd inst. It was held in the rooms of the Civil Service Club, when about 50

clerks of the local post office gathered together under the auspices of the Civil Service Federation of Canada. The meeting was admittedly the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in the history of this association, and many matters of vital interest to the members and the service generally were discussed. A new constitution was drafted and adopted, setting forth the aims and objects of the association, and a determined effort will be made to enroll every eligible official in its membership.

The following officers were elected:

President—Wm. J. Cantwell.

First Vice-president—Louis Corbeil.

Second Vice-president—Wm. Cottrell.

English Secretary—John J. Fair.

French Secretary—Oscar Boily.

Secretary-treasurer—Jos. S. Pelletier.

Executive Committee—E. Landriau, J. Binks, H. O'Neil, A. Dauray, R. St. George, L. St. Laurent.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Grierson, the secretary of the Civil Service Federation, Mr. Burns, of the Outside Service Customs Association, rendered very valuable assistance in the task of reorganization, for which he was tendered a most cordial vote of thanks. Votes of thanks were also tendered to Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Binks, Mr. Parent and Mr. Cantwell for past services rendered the local clerks. The thanks of the meeting were also extended to Mr. Grierson for the interest he has taken in the welfare of the postal service, and to the Civil Service Club for the use of their rooms.

The new executive will hold its inaugural meeting on Monday evening next to further the work commenced under such happy auspices.

LONGEVITY.

If you want to live to be
 Seven hundred score and three,
 And you'd like ten thousand wives
 To fill out your forty lives,
 Don't perpetually whine
 When all things are going fine.
 Wear a shredded laugh and grin,
 They will always let you in
 Where the hearts are light and gay,
 Where the sunny fellows stray,
 And you'll start a little whirl
 In the heart of every girl.
 It's the fellow who must mope
 Though the land is full of hope
 Who will surely die or drown
 If a cloudburst hits the town;
 Or who's sure to lose his pigs
 If the pinkeye strikes his digs.
 Every goat he has will die
 If a fire wanders by,
 And his prunes will surely rot
 Just because the weather's hot;
 And his cows will quit their milk
 And his silkworms spin no silk.
 If the plague by any luck
 Comes—it devastates his truck—
 All his horses get the heaves
 And his fruit trees bear no leaves
 And his water-melon vine
 Dies because the sun won't shine.
 Every tooth he has will ache
 And his plough is sure to break,
 And his money's full of holes
 And the locusts come in shoals,
 Feeding all the blessed day
 Off his spinach and his hay.
 O! The man who always wails
 Finds ten hundred billion snails
 Chewing up his dinky squash
 And his Brussel sprouts—begosh.
 Every condimmed thing he grows
 Vermin visitation shews.
 Gentle reader—you will win
 If you wear a scalloped grin,
 For Jehovah only scowls
 At the man who always growls—
 And the KNOCKER seldom fails
 To find cause for forty wails.

The Poet "Low-Rate."

TO L — IN LENT.

I glad gave up the brimming cup,
 And all its dear delights;
 The honest chat o' this and that,
 When men will talk o' nights;
 The gay, glad hour—Drink's only
 dower—
 The Bacchanalian crew;
 All these forswore, unasked, Asthore,
 Because, i' faith, of *you*.
 Though bride o' mine through shade
 and shine,
 In times of gray and gloom;
 Though, solace oft when friendship
 scoffed,
 She shared my spouseless room;
 Though long through years, their
 hopes and fears,
 She proved a mistress true.—
Miss Nicotine,— Ah, my Colleen,
 I gave *her* up for *you*!

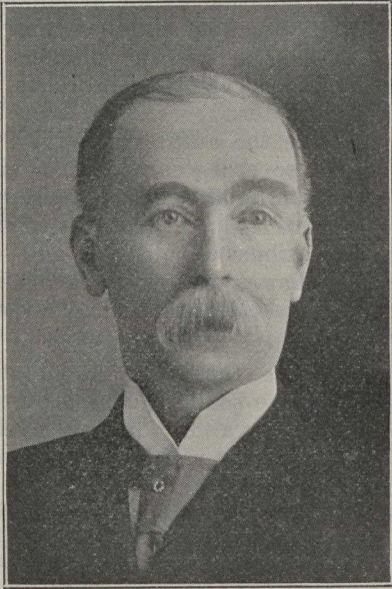
And loyal, too, were they to you,
 My brimming cup and pipe;
 For in the first, through love athirst,
 I drank your beauty ripe;
 And in each airy, fairy cloud
 Of soft, nicotian blue,
 By magic wrought, my fancy caught
 The face, Machree, of *you*.

But, faith! I need no conjuring weed
 To see that vision shine.
 The soul that lies in your clear eyes
 Sole mistress is of mine.
 By dreams, by day, Asthore, always,
 Your beauty bounds my view;
 Man's pleasure spurned, I Lenten
 burned
 In sacrifice to *you*.

Shamus O'Shaughnessy.

Two girls were talking over the telephone. Both were discussing what they should wear at the party. In the midst of this important conversation, a masculine voice interrupted, asking humbly for a number. One of the girls became indignant and scornfully asked: "What line do you think you are on, anyhow?" "Well," said the man, "I am not sure, but, judging from what I have heard, I should say I was on a clothes-line."

THOMAS N. DOODY,



T. N. DOODY.

The above portrait is that of Mr. Thomas N. Doody, a well known member of the civil service at Ottawa, and the present president of the Civil Service Club.

Mr. Doody was one of the charter members of the club, and stayed with it through its darkest days. Now that it has discarded its swaddling clothes, and is moving to larger quarters, it is most fitting that he should be its president.

As his name would imply, Mr. Doody is a son of Erin, who came to Ottawa from the commercial metropolis, Montreal, in 1886. He is a member of the staff of the public works department. Notwithstanding the pleasing portrait given above, Mr. Doody still adheres to the ranks of the benedicts. The future success of the Civil Service Club, with such men in charge of affairs, is assured beyond doubt.

PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS.

The manner of appointing the civil servants of the province of Ontario provided material for a two-hour debate in the legislature on March 12th, and the argument centred about the question whether those working under the present patronage system were as efficient as if they had gained their positions through competitive examinations. The opposition took the ground that a non-partisan civil service commission, with ample powers to appoint on a basis of merit, would be preferable, and moved an amendment.

* * *

During the Christmas season, 1913, in the United States, 37,000 emergency men were employed to work the holiday mails. The railway mail service, usually operated by 18,000 men, was increased to 32,000, and the clerical force was increased from 65,000 to 88,000 men.

* * *

Mayor Mitchell has renewed Mayor Gaynor's order to the heads of all city departments that appointments from civil service eligible lists should be made in their numerical order. His letter to President Moskowitz, of the Civil Service Commission, informing him of this action, follows:—

"I have requested all heads of departments and bureaus to make appointments and promotions from the first names on eligible lists, and that if any departure be necessary from this rule to consult me before taking action. I will inform you in each case when I consent to a man being passed. If any such cases come before you without my approval, please take the matter up with me immediately."—"Good Government."

* * *

Civil service reformers in the United States are congratulating President Wilson upon his appointment of W. E. Kelly to the position of postmaster at Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Kelly was president of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The position of postmaster is still on the patronage list. The appointment is, therefore, a compliment to the appointee, to the letter carriers' association, and to the merit system.

SYMPATHETIC.

Judge—Now, I don't expect to see you here again, Rufus.

Rufus—Not see me here again, Judge? Why, yo'-all ain't a-goin' to resign yo' job, is you, Judge?

THE CIVILIAN

Devoted to the interests of the Civil Service
of Canada.

Subscription \$1.00 a year ;
Single copies 5 cents.

Advertising rates are graded according to
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THE EDITORS,
THE CIVILIAN,
P. O. Box 484, Ottawa

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

Ottawa, Mar. 6, 1914

"The law pertaining to the civil service should be honestly and rigidly enforced, to the end that merit and ability should be the standard of appointment and promotion, rather than service rendered to a political party."

* * *

"Entrance to the civil service should be at the bottom, and the custom of securing men from outside the ranks and placing them ahead of old employees should be discouraged, and only resorted to when public interest demands. Civil service protects employees in their positions, but it holds them there in stagnation unless a method be found to not only secure the time of its employees, but to stimulate and reward their ambition."

CIVIL RIGHTS (2).

In continuation of the article contained in our last number, and in further considering the manner by which civil service legislation is being administered, we have been led to examine the auditor-general's reports for several years, with a view to ascertaining the methods adopted in the matter of procuring satisfying interpretations of obscure and debatable clauses met with in dealing with this special kind of legislation.

The fewness of the number of reported cases startles us, and among these few are some of comparatively unimportant value. It can hardly be imagined that a tithe of the really important cases which must arise in the course of governing so large a body as the civil service of Canada has now become are contained in these reports we have been praising. If the reports are full and complete, and record all the cases of commanding importance, no complaint can be made; but, if not, then it becomes a matter of some moment to know what rule is employed in the selection of the cases thus distinguished and brought under the notice of parliament. The auditor-general's report of 1909-10 contains a detailed report of a dispute arising upon the classification of the Senate staffs, and also a reference to the employment of laborers in connection with city post offices, both of little or no importance to the great body of civil servants, but so far as we have been able to discover, no other allusion is made to issues growing out of civil service legislation beyond the two instances mentioned.

The reports of 1910-11 and 1911-12 do not appear to contain one single contentious civil service case, but in the first volume of the report for 1912-13, recently issued, attention is drawn to no less than thirteen different and distinct types of cases, which are thus brought directly un-

der the notice of parliament. The salutary effect of this measure of publicity in allaying discontent and in promoting a feeling of confidence throughout the service, can hardly be over-estimated. It is to be hoped that this spirit of fair dealing will be accepted as an augury of better days to come.

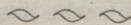
Among the thirteen cases referred to in this report we select the one given in Part A, p. 21, as affording an illustration of the dangers attending a reference to the justice department on any questions relating to civil service matters. In this case the auditor-general, having, presumably, doubts of the inadequacy of the legislation to do a particular thing, applies to the justice department for an interpretation of an item in a supply bill, which purports to give promotion and increase of salary to a high official of the justice department itself. The opinion of that department is given entirely supporting the view that the high official indicated was entitled, under the provisions of the debated item, to the promotion and increase of salary which the supply bill purported to give. In that opinion the auditor-general apparently concurred, and no doubt gave whatever sanction was necessary to carry out its direction.

With the soundness or unsoundness of the opinion given in this case we are not immediately concerned. It is unfortunate that the auditor-general should have referred a matter of this kind to the justice department at all, and it is equally unfortunate that the officials of the justice department themselves should not have attempted to be relieved from acting in the capacity of adviser on so delicate a subject.

The palladium, however, against encroachments on civil service rights is to be found in just such publicity as has been given to the thirteen cases above mentioned, and with a

continuance of this method of reporting to parliament future cases of dealings with controversial matters of that nature the far-reaching and remedial benefits to be derived from such a measure of publicity cannot fail to be of the utmost value as a protection against every species of unfairness or favoritism; as far-reaching, indeed, as those claimed by Mr. Sheridan, who, speaking from his seat in the Imperial House of Commons as long ago as February 6th, 1810, on the liberty of the press, said:—

“Give me but the liberty of the
“press and I will give the minister
“a venal House of Peers—I will give
“him a corrupt and servile House of
“Commons—I will give him the full
“swing of the patronage of office—I
“will give him the whole host of
“ministerial influence—I will give
“him all the power that place can
“confer upon him to purchase sub-
“mission, and overawe resistance;
“and yet, armed with the liberty of
“the press, I will go forth to meet
“him undismayed; I will attack the
“mighty fabric he has reared with
“that mightier engine; I will shake
“down from its heights corruption,
“and lay it beneath the ruins of the
“abuses it was meant to shelter.”



MINISTERIAL CONGRATULATIONS.

The following item is clipped from “Hansard” of March 27th:—

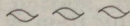
Mr. White: This bill contains certain amendments to the Civil Service Insurance Act, which is to be found in the Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter 18. There are two principal features to which I directed the attention of the house upon the occasion of the consideration of the resolution preceding the bill. The first is that the benefits of the act are extended to female members of the service, so that the sexes are placed on an equality in that regard. The second feature is that the maximum amount of insurance is increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The other provisions of the bill relate principally to these two fea-

tures. For some time past the civil service have requested that legislation of this character should be enacted.

A fortnight ago the editors of *The Civilian* should have made its complimentary salutations to the minister of finance on behalf of the whole service for the two concessions above noted. Mr. White seems, indeed, to have taken up the civil service burden in all seriousness. It is safe to say that not since Confederation has the service been under such a searching scrutiny as to its personnel and its duties.

It is, indeed, a matter for congratulation that Mr. White has appeared upon the scene and is willing to give to duties which do not relate to his department (such as the Civil Service Act) such exacting and absorbing attention. This voluntary work that Mr. White is performing for the service is rendered, in truth, to Canada itself, and must arise from a loyal sense of an urgent duty to be performed, for Mr. White remarked to a recent delegation from the federation that "the service is in a tangle."

The federation has, in its recent memorials, made three requests in respect of insurance. Two of these requests are granted. The third relates to the 1% tax on the salary of those contributing to the first super-annuation fund, who may take out an insurance policy. In our next issue we will discuss this feature of the Insurance Act.

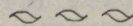


CUSTOMS SALARIES IN MARITIME PROVINCES.

During the recent federation meeting of delegates in Ottawa the representative from the Maritime Provinces, Mr. C. Watt, who made a long journey at a very short notice, laid before the executive a table of salaries paid in the customs service in the three provinces. In reading the table, appearing on another page, it

must be considered that those in receipt of an amount less than \$1,000 a year are permitted by the department to seek other means of revenue. It is understood, however, that in practice those who receive \$400 or more from the department are not able to add to their incomes by outside employment. We make this statement subject to correction. If it is true, the average salary of the customs officers in these provinces is \$865. That is to say, there are 347 officers receiving \$400 or more, with a total payroll of \$299,950, with the average, as stated above, of \$865. This is a pretty small living allowance for servants of His Majesty the King. Making all allowances for the difficulties in the way of the department in requiring the services of officers in small outposts, there surely seems to be reason for revision in respect of those who cannot get outside employment, or are debarred from doing so on account of having passed the \$1,000 mark.

The statement from the Maritime Provinces is valuable as a record. It may appeal to the minister and the commissioners as an eye-opener, and may bear print. In view of the cost of living, it is manifestly clear that this scale salary is not sufficient to support a customs officer in decency, with or without a family. A correspondent in the Maritime Provinces writes *The Civilian*: "There is no other department with such a low scale of salary, and I can confidently vouch for the fact that in no other department can you find the same class of officers receiving anything like the low scale of pay as is received by the customs officers of the Maritime Provinces."



TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.

There are many civil servants in Canada; there are many societies of civil servants, some active, some not

so active, and some affiliated with the federation. To one and all, either the individual or the organization, the editors of *The Civilian* extend the invitation for news or views of any matters of personal or service interest. Especially is it desirable that *The Civilian* be supplied with reports of meetings, so that, east and west, all may be informed of the interest servants of the crown are taking in their status in the life of the Dominion.



EDITORIAL NOTE.

The delivery of *The Civilian* in Ottawa being done by messenger, difficulties have arisen on account of the overflowing of the departments into smaller buildings far removed. It has, therefore, been decided to send *The Civilian* to the head office, and arrangements will be made for the transmission thence to the various points in which certain branches have become located. It is hoped by so doing to avoid delay and error.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE NEWS FROM THE WEST.

The Civilian's correspondent in Moosejaw sends the following interesting budget:—

On May 16th, 1908, the Saskatchewan division of the railway mail service came into existence, with a staff of 21 clerks and a superintendent, Mr. C. A. Hislop. There is now on the staff 112 members, of which 97 are mail clerks and 5 transfer agents. The rest are the office staff.

Of the original 21 there are three left on the road. The others have transferred into less onerous and more remunerative employment.

Clerks come and clerks go, and we are continually breaking in new men, which does not lighten the responsi-

bilities of the older clerks, i.e., men who have been in the service two or more years, who number about 55.

Now that parcel post is coming into effect, which will continue to grow, our work will be made more responsible.

We still have to keep up 90% efficiency every year, and take an annual examination for an increase in salary of \$50.

The department says they cannot take any chances. They must have sober, industrious and responsible men in the R. M. S.

The P. M. G., on the floor of the house (see "Hansard" Jan. 29th, 1914), stated that the law does not permit him to pay a big enough salary to keep good men in the service, and yet from April 1st, 1913, to March 31st, 1914, 33 clerks were docked \$40 in their provisional allowance, in consequence of reaching \$800 per annum in salary.

The railway mail clerk receives \$120 per annum for the first three years; then it is brought down to \$80, i.e., 10% of the salary. As the salary advances by \$50 per year, the provisional allowance advances by \$5. When \$1,200 is reached, in eight years, by keeping up a uniformly high percentage of 90, the R. M. C. is again receiving \$120 per annum provisional allowance.

What I cannot get at is this: If the difference in the cost of living east and west of the great lakes is recognized in the majority of cases as being \$15 per month, how is it, then, that the difference in the cost of living for mail clerks east and west of the lakes is only \$10 per month the first three years they are in the service, and from \$7.50 to \$10.00 monthly according to the years from three to eleven, the clerks happen to have been in the R. M. S.? It would be much simpler to grant us the \$15 per month. The clerical work alone would pay the difference, besides sweeping away this great in-

justice. The railway mail clerk must keep up expenses each end of the run; the wear and tear to his clothes are so much greater. The wear and worry of life on the road is calculated to shorten the life of the R. M. C. It will be a curious sight to see a clerk superannuated. In discussing the high cost of living, it never occurs to the merchant from whom I buy my shoes to ask whether a man is drawing \$600 or \$800; he just soaks me; he does not sell his goods to me on a 10% basis.

ONE DAY IN SEVEN.

It has long been considered one of the Christian beatitudes that there should be "one day off in seven" for all classes making up our modern civilization. It will be an amazing discovery for many people to make that the good government of our country, looked up to as being the "model employer," in effect breaks the seventh commandment by making its public guardians work seven days in the week. Yes, the Dominion police in Ottawa that handsome body of men, work seven days in the week. There can be no explanation of this sin against nature and the accepted moral law except the matter of expense. And yet this is too trivial an argument for a government to advance. There remains a kinder and more reasonable imputation, viz., that the matter has never, with sufficient emphasis, been brought to the attention of the minister of justice, or the chief commissioner. It is the purpose of the present writing to perform this function by quoting reports from Chicago, where an agitation is going on on behalf of the police of that city, who are suffering from the same complaint

The "Civil Service News," of Chicago, quotes the opinion of a number of clergymen on the principle of one

day in seven. Three of these are here quoted:—

Rev. Johnston Myers Talks.

"Men who are worth anything to the community and to themselves should have their day of rest," said Rev. Johnston Myers, of the Emanuel Baptist church. "Such is the record of history. To work continuously day in and day out means the breaking down of man both morally and physically. Besides losing health, he misses the joys of home life and the influence so necessary to the happiness of his wife and children."

"What of the Home?"

Very Rev. Philip Burke, of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, was equally emphatic.

"It is most essential that policemen of Chicago have a day off," he said. "It has always been considered a duty throughout the history of all nations to set a day of rest. And then there is the home. What of the policeman's home? When can he find time to buy a pair of shoes for his little boy or tend to the necessities of his wife and children? And what pleasure does he derive from living?"

The "News" interviewed some of the police, and the following is a sample of the replies:—

"When a man has something to look forward to and knows he will have a chance to spend some time with his family and just as he pleases, he works twice as hard when he's working," he said. "Encouragement will make any man do more loyal and better work."

The "News" comments editorially as follows:—

Nearly every taxpayer takes, besides his annual vacation, one day off a week for rest and recreation.

Nearly every policeman of Chicago does not get one day off in seven for rest and recreation. All he gets is his two weeks' furlough for annual vacation. Aside from this, he has to work every day from one year's end to the other.

Nearly enough has been said.

It is nearly an outrage.

It is an outrage.

A Moral Obligation.

"By all means the police should have one day of rest in every seven," said Very Rev. F. X. McCabe, LL.D., president of De Paul University and pastor of Saint Vincent's Roman Catholic church. "There is a moral obligation on the part of the community to give them that day to spend with their families. Police traveling the beat are kept at a high tension throughout the year, and life is nothing but one steady

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grind. One moment they are expected to be kind and the next they have to be severe. And when the day is over, and the policeman returns to his home it is only to sleep. He cannot look forward to having a whole day at home with his wife and children."

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

An enquiry has been received from the customs association of Winnipeg, asking for particulars as to the success of co-operation in Ottawa. Montreal is studying the question as well. We will soon be able to say that "everybody is doing it." It seems incredible that Toronto has not yet wakened up, and still more so that single-tax Vancouver is yet without a co-operative enterprise.

The Ottawa Store Engages an Organizer.

As forecasted in last issue, a momentous step in the history of the Ottawa Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association has been taken. Feeling that the business is now well established, the board of directors and the co-operative committee of the Civil Service Federation believe that the time has come to adopt a more aggressive policy. The propagandist end of the co-operative movement in Ottawa has hitherto been very weak, and it is the intention to push this end energetically. Accordingly, it has been decided to engage a secretary-treasurer, who will also be the organizer of the association.

The directors have been on the lookout for a capable organizer for over a year, and have been fortunate in finding Mr. George Bracewell, who has had a wide experience in the co-operative movement. Mr. Bracewell was trained in the English movement, and has been manager of a co-operative store in Sydney, C.B., for several years. He has, therefore, had experience both in Great Britain and Canada. When he came to Sydney the annual turnover of the business there was around \$100,000 a year; it is now over \$200,000 per annum.

Mr. Bracewell also organized a co-operative wholesale society to supply the needs of the five co-operative societies now operating in Cape Breton. It is expected that the coming of Mr. Bracewell to Ottawa will very materially strengthen the co-operative cause in Ontario. He expects to take up his duties early in May.

The success of co-operation does not, however, rest with the employed officers of a co-operative society. It rests with the individual co-operator, who is always loyal, and who always boosts. A capable organizer and executive can do much to hearten the membership and to direct their energies for the good of the movement. It must not be forgotten that in the last analysis it is the propagandist power of the membership that tells.

The coming of Mr. Bracewell means that the manager of the store, Mr. J. H. Kelley, will be relieved of the financial cares of the business, and will be enabled to devote all of his time to store management and buying. Mr. Kelley has been carrying a herculean load, the weight of which, perhaps, has not always been appreciated by the membership. He has not had a vacation for several years, and has looked after the interests of the business faithfully and well. The assistance of Mr. Bracewell will be a considerable relief to him.

Negotiations are now in progress for securing enlarged premises, which are very badly needed.

* * *

The sales of the Ottawa store for the month of March were \$5,102.41, an increase of \$995.25 over the same month last year. March completes the fiscal year of the association, and the sales for the twelve-month period amounts to \$54,322.60, an increase of \$4,084.16 over last fiscal year. Inventory has been taken, and the auditors will shortly complete the annual statement for presentation to the annual general meeting.

WOMEN'S COLUMN.

The other day there came under my eye these few lines: "If your friend is a help, a joy, an inspiration to you, tell him so; there are discouraged hearts everywhere just hungry for appreciation and sympathy."

Now the advice contained in these lines should be shouted from the house-tops. This is just what is the matter in our daily lives. We will not show to each other the best that is in us. We seem often to be ashamed of showing a little bit of real feeling. Why should we not allow others to know how much they help us? What a joy their companionship and sympathy may be to us! Instead of which we walk through life trying to look as though nothing ever touched our hearts—and probably the friend standing beside us is hungering just as we are for that word of appreciation and sympathy.

I know a dear little woman who always comes to tell any stray word of praise she may hear about one. "For," she says, "we always hear the nasty things fast enough and a nice word now and then is so encouraging; now, isn't it?"

* * *

In looking at some back copies of *The Civilian*, I found in one of the numbers for January last the following: "So far the Women's Column has been the result of sporadic efforts on the part of one of the editors of *The Civilian* who is a strong believer in the extension of women's influence in walks of life other than those to which they have heretofore been too much confined."

Just here and now we women of the civil service wish to thank this champion of a sane companionship between men and women for the attitude taken in the edition of this column. We hope that he may continue to take an interest in our interests and that we may still have some contributions from the pen which did such good work in our behalf formerly. It is

going to be quite hard to live up to the standard which this bright and brave editor set up for us. However that may be, it is good for one to have a high standard to strive after even if one falls far short in achieving it.

* * *

"To set the face in the right direction, and then simply to travel on, unmindful and never discouraged by even frequent relapses by the way, is the secret of all human achievement," says Ralph Waldo Trine. What a beautiful, wonderful mind he has! It is such a consoling thought not to be discouraged by our own frequent relapses, isn't it? It is a thought which a civil servant has to bring into active force very often, particularly at 9.16 in the morning, when the "thin red line" stares one in the face and one looks up at the clock, which somehow or other always manages to get ahead of a civil servant's watch at that hour.

* * *

The following extract from the debate in the House of Commons, March 20th, will be of interest to many women of the service:—

Mr. OLIVER: I do not happen to be familiar with the original statute. The question has been asked, in what particulars does the status of female members of the service differ from that of the male members at the present time?

Mr. WHITE: I was under the impression that my hon. friend was familiar with the statute. The Civil Service Insurance Act was enacted in 1893. Under its provisions any male member of the service occupying a permanent position is entitled to take out an insurance policy for an amount not exceeding \$2,000 payable upon his death, upon paying premiums based upon fraternal society actuarial rates. The Act does not include the female members of the service, for the reason, I presume, that at the time the Act was passed, there may have been comparatively few females in the service. There seems no good reason why there should be a discrimination against the ladies; and this legislation is introduced to place them upon an equality with their male fellow members of the service. The life insurance companies generally accept risks upon the lives of women as they do upon the lives of men.

We are very grateful to the Minister of Finance for his splendid stand upon the question of insurance, and now we must also make our bow of thanks to the minister of labour, who publicly placed himself on record in Montreal last week as favouring votes for women should they wish to have them.

On principle surely every woman wishes to be allowed to vote on what concerns her as well as her husband and brothers and sons, should she so desire; but how many of us would so desire in the everyday questions of life? Most women, happily heads of homes with husband and sons working and thinking for them, are only too glad and willing to leave the responsibility to the judgment of the men they trust and look up to; but how many of us are obliged to do the thinking, and often the earning for children or young brothers and sisters left to our care. Then, and also on questions which immediately concern the home and the child, women do

want to vote, and to have some voice in making and bettering laws which affect them and the welfare of their children.

* * *

The following extract from the *Woman's Home Companion* for April is encouraging, and although Miss Fern Hobbs may be a very striking exception to the rule, it is good to think that such a responsibility and such a salary have been achieved by a woman:—

Miss Fern Hobbs, a *Governor's Right Hand*.—Being a governess didn't appeal to Miss Hobbs as a permanent occupation; so she studied stenography, and, to skip several years of hard work in which she proved her capacity, became private secretary to a governor—Governor West of Oregon, at a salary of three thousand dollars a year. Also she studied law, was admitted to the bar, and showed such a grasp of affairs that the governor sent her to Washington, where she induced the federal government to settle certain claims to public lands to the governor's satisfaction. Several times during the absence of her chief she has practically been the head of the executive department. She was the governor's personal representa-

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tive at Portland during his state-wide anti-vive campaign of something more than a year ago, and last January came into national notice by appearing as the governor's deputy in Copperfield, when, because of alleged defiance of the liquor ordinances, that town was placed under martial law by executive order. She was born in Nebraska, educated in Salt Lake City, Utah, and as the governor's "right-hand" has had occasion to run the state of Oregon; in short, she has already had a pretty lively career for a young lady of twenty-seven.

PERSONALS.

Miss Merle B. Horsely, of the Money Order Branch, Post Office Department, has been transferred to the Dead Letter Office, Toronto. Miss Horsely has only been in the service since September, but has won many friends among her associates. A pearl and peridot brooch was given her by friends in the Money Order Branch as a mark of their esteem.

Miss Rodman, of the Department of Agriculture, has gone to Bermuda owing to ill health.

A meeting of the Ladies' Rifle Association of Ottawa was held in the Drill Hall on Monday, March 23rd. Colonel Helmer addressed the meeting, and afterwards the first practice this year was held. There are upwards of forty members at present, the majority being civil service girls, and all are very enthusiastic. The rifle used is a five pound miniature Ross rifle, and distance of range is 15 yards at present, but the girls are hoping soon to be able to shoot at the rifle ranges at Rockcliffe. One of the ladies of the civil service, we understand, clipped the bull's-eye at the first practice. We are expecting great things of her.

ON DIT.

That the city post office has been swamped by the arrival of Easter hats by parcel post from Europe.

What a treat we are going to have if Dame Nature will only smile on us kindly on Easter Sunday!

DOROTHY DAY.

Note.—Address correspondence for this column to "Dorothy Day," Box 484, Ottawa.

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PROF. LAING has opened his Dancing Academy at St. Patrick's Hall, and is prepared to give Private Lessons by appointment. Special club rates given on application for old and new dances—Tango, Tango (Maurice), Tango Parisienne, Maxixe, Evelyn Schottische, Hesitation Waltz, One Step, etc. Phone Q. 2036

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TECHNICAL LANGUAGE.

An army chaplain came across a baggage column with a wagon stuck fast. "Men, I see you're in difficulties," he said. "Can I be of any assistance?" "Yes, sir," exclaimed one of the drivers, "by making yourself scarce! You see, we can't very well say to the horses what they'd understand while you're about!"

List of the Salaries Paid the Various Officers of Customs in the Maritime Provinces as per Auditor-General's Report, 1912.

Amount in Salary	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	P.E. Island	Total No. in Mar. Prov.
\$ 100 00	1	11	1	13
120 00	...	3	...	3
150 00	3	42	4	49
200 00	2	19	5	26
250 00	2	24	2	28
300 00	7	17	1	25
350 00	1	5	...	6
400 00	6	7	2	15
450 00	6	6	...	12
500 00	6	9	1	16
550 00	2	...	1	3
600 00	8	5	...	13
650 00	7	6	1	14
700 00	15	11	4	30
750 00	24	22	2	48
800 00	15	35	1	51
850 00	10	13	2	25
900 00	5	14	1	20
950 00	5	1	...	6
1,000 00	7	11	...	18
1,050 00	...	6	2	8
1,100 00	2	7	...	9
1,150 00	1	4	1	6
1,200 00	7	14	1	22
1,250 00	3	...	1	4
1,300 00	2	...	...	2
1,350 00	...	2	...	2
1,400 00	1	2	...	3
1,450 00	1	...	...	1
1,500 00	4	4	...	8
1,550 00	2	...	...	2
1,600 00	2	2	...	4
1,700 00	...	1	...	1
1,800 00	1	...	...	1
1,900 00	...	...	1	1
3,500 00	1	1	...	2
	159	304	34	497

THE VANCOUVER SERVICE ENTERTAINS AT A SMOKER.

Over 300 guests made merry at the annual smoker of the Vancouver branch of the Dominion Civil Servants' Association in O'Brien hall last night. The evening's programme was one resplendent with brilliant talent, and, punctuated by the excellent renderings of the post office orchestra, the large assembly maintained a spirit of the most jovial vein until the midnight hour.

The genial president, Mr. J. E. Fagan, occupied the chair, and, in responding to the toast, "The King," in his opening remarks, touched briefly on the merits of the association.

The toast, "The Dominion Civil Servants' Association of Canada," proposed by Mr. Whitehead, was replied to by Rev. A. E. Vert, of New Westminster, president of the British Columbia branch, and delegate to the recent Ottawa convention. He dwelt on the significance of the superannuation bill and the civil servants' bill before the house during the present session. If the association, he said, was successful in having these passed, it had accomplished something in itself that would alone justify its existence.

In the city of Vancouver there were between 400 and 500 civil servants, and he strongly urged that every one should have his name enrolled as a member and endeavor to contribute his little part towards the advancement and welfare of the body. They had accomplished a great deal in the past, and if they stood together would, in time, attain to a similar position as enjoyed in the old country, namely, that of one of the finest and noblest professions.

Mr. J. M. Bowell, the popular collector of customs, was given a rousing reception upon rising to speak. He tersely enjoined them to band together for the betterment of each other. Speaking as one who had been in the service since 1878, he assured them that insofar as his humble ability was concerned he would at all times do everything that lay in his power to assist in the work.

Mr. F. G. Allen, one of the fathers of the association, replied to the toast, "The Vancouver Branch." He emphasized the objects of the association. Reviewing the schedule and scale of salaries as comparative with other vocations, he trusted that by united effort the members would, in time, enjoy a higher standard in this respect.

The success of the evening's entertainment was in no small measure attributed to the untiring efforts of the secretary, Mr. Norman DeGraves, who was aided by a committee consisting of J. E. Fagan, F. G. Allen, T. Wootton, H. Birmingham, R. Adam, C. A. Whitehead, J. F. Murray, G. McDonald, R. McMahon, W. J. Holland, A. Brown and P. McAllister. To the post office orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. N. Williamson, is also due no small measure of praise.

Among those who took part in the programme were: Vocal solos, Messrs. Raines, Moore, Gallagher, H. J. DeGraves and Cook; violin solo, Mr. E. J. Morgan; cornet solo, C. Tossell, and recitations by Messrs. McRae, Dempster and Dowding.

Personals.

Frederick Wellington Taylor, the cyclone hockey player, formerly of Ottawa, now of Vancouver, was married in Ottawa on March 14th, during the visit of the western team, to Miss Thirza Cook, daughter of the late Samuel Cook. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Sparling.

J. D. C. McFarlane, of the railway mail service branch of the post office department, died at his home, 20 Ralph street, Ottawa, on the 3rd instant, aged 49 years. He is survived by a widow and six children.

Mr. R. M. Graham, mail clerk on the Bridgeburg and St. Thomas route, has been ordered by his doctor to take a long rest.

Mr. G. A. Clark, chief landing waiter at Bridgeburg, represented the Bridgeburg branch of the C. S. Federation at Ottawa last week.

Mr. John W. Lethaby, LL.B., of the department of marine and fisheries, Victoria, B.C., has just finished a collection of stories and articles entitled "Slave Stories." The book is published by the Walter Scott Publishing Co., Ltd., and is having a good sale in London and New York. Mr. Lethaby devotes a deal of his leisure to Dickensia, and is one of the leaders in the Dickens Club. A new novel is due shortly from his pen.

J. de L. Taché has been appointed King's printer and comptroller of stationery in succession to C. H. Parmelee, deceased. The new deputy head comes from St. Hyacinthe, Que., where he has been engaged for years in the newspaper business. He has the distinction of being the first French-Canadian King's printer for the Dominion.

Mr. Harold Armstrong, of the money order branch, post office department, has been transferred to the dead letter office, Regina. He has been in the service several years, and has ever been duly popular. On behalf of the staff of the money order branch, Mr. Grout, superintendent, presented him with a leather travelling bag, and expressed sorrow at his departure and every good wish for future success.

MACDONALD-WILSON—At 124 Fairford street east, on Saturday, 14th of March, by Rev. J. T. Bayne, Harold A. MacDonald, to Miss Constance Wilson, both of Moose Jaw.

Obituary.

F. M. Wade, formerly chief of the national live stock records branch of the department of agriculture, died in Vancouver on March 5th, after a brief illness of pneumonia. Mr. Wade, who was everywhere recognized as an authority in his

line of work, left the civil service three years ago to take an editorial position on the Vancouver "Sun." He was a veteran of the Northwest campaign of 1885. The widow and one son survive. Gerald Wade, of Winnipeg, formerly registrar of live stock in Ottawa, is a brother.

Thomas R. Rhodes, formerly of Bridgeburg, Ont., and, at one time, an officer of the customs there, died in Detroit on March 12th, aged sixty-one years.

Charles J. Jones, son of L. K. Jones, assistant deputy minister of railways and canals, died suddenly at Prescott on March 18th. Mr. Jones was in the government service and was engaged at Prescott in connection with the fitting out of a steamboat. His death was the result of the shock caused by his falling into the icy waters of the St. Lawrence. He leaves a widow and two small children.

Thomas H. Schwitzer, formerly mechanical superintendent of the government printing bureau, but lately of the department of public works, died in the Montreal General hospital on March 15th, after ten days' illness, of pneumonia. Mr. Schwitzer, who was a native of Ottawa, was only thirty-five years of age, and had held important positions in the commercial world and in the United States civil service before his entry into the Canadian service. His death cut short a career of unusual success. The widow and two young sons survive.

John H. Linahan, an employee of the Montreal post office, died on March 22nd, after a week's illness, leaving a widow and four young children. He was a native of Richmond, Que.

Alfred Leagare, of Tetreauville, Que., an employee of the government in Ottawa, died on March 21st, at the early age of twenty-three years.

James H. Dunlop, of the staff of the library of parliament, died on March 21st, after three weeks' illness, aged 69 years. Mr. Dunlop was born in Scotland, a son of the late Peter Dunlop, and great-grandson of the late Sir Walter Buchanan Riddie, Bart. After serving for some years in the British army, he came to Canada in 1870, and entered the government service in 1872. Since 1877 he had been a member of the staff of the library. A widow, two sons and two daughters survive.

Jean Heugh Hudson, wife of Joseph G. S. Hudson, of the department of mines, died on March 21st. She leaves, besides her husband, one daughter, Mrs. J. G. Parmelee.

The death occurred at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, March 27th, of Mr. James McCann, of the immigration branch, department of interior, Ottawa.

Mr. McCann, who was in his thirtieth year, was the son of the late Mr. Daniel

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REPAIRS.

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McCann, and was born in Ottawa. He joined the service eight years ago, and was of a quiet, lovable disposition. He showed great efficiency in the work of his office, and if the hand of sickness had not been laid upon him would, no doubt, have made rapid progress in the service. For the past two years he had been ailing with tubercular trouble, and, notwithstanding the best medical attention and the tender nursing of his wife and relatives, he passed away peacefully on Friday at his father's residence, 110 Florence street. He left a widow, formerly Miss McCord, of Ottawa, but no family. Mr. Dave McCann, the well-known football player, is a brother of the deceased.

Richard John Shaw died at Almonte, Ont., on March 28th, at the great age of ninety-three years and six months. Mr. Shaw was born in Devonport, England, and came to Canada in 1838. In 1866 he was appointed to the staff of the post office department and was connected therewith until 1895, when he retired on superannuation. The funeral was held in Ottawa on the 30th.

Athletics.

Over eighty men have now signified their intention of taking part in English rugby this spring in Ottawa. This will mean at least four teams in the league.

The union intends holding a "smoker" before the practice games begin. The latter will take place as soon as all the snow has disappeared and the ground dried up sufficiently. The "elder brother," the Montreal league, may get a surprise before the season is over. Lloyd Roberts, of the immigration branch, is secretary of the union.

* * *

Now that the hockey season is over in Ottawa, and the Interior Department has "nosed out" the Customs for the championship, all thoughts turn to C. S. baseball. There is nothing like experience to teach us things. One lesson of last year was that the different branches of departments should combine in one good team (as the interior department did in hockey), and not attempt to put

several weak nines in the field. For example, the surveys and immigration teams last year landed at the bottom of the list. They are both in the same department, and by combining could have put a good, strong club into the series.

* * *

Now is the time to make arrangements for visits between civil service baseball clubs in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. Why cannot correspondence be started at once, with a view to having matches here—say, on some of our fairly numerous holidays, or Saturday afternoons; of course, guarding against clashing with dates when the Ottawa pro. team is at home?

~ ~

Mr. N. J. De Graves, secretary of the Vancouver branch of the B. C. associations, sends *The Civilian* this item of absorbing athletic interest:—

Gloom, deep, impenetrable, conglomerated gloom, reigned in the offices of the customs department on the morning of March 12th. No one on the customs staff had a word to say. In fact, most of the staff looked as they should be in the hospital. On the lower floors, where the post office men have sway, joy unalloyed prevailed. Yesterday the annual soccer football match between the post office and the customs was pulled off, and the men of letters won three to nil. The men of duty did their best, but never got the ball beyond the half-way line. Last year the customs won by four to nil and they are prophesying already that next year they will double that score.

~ ~

The Ladies' Rifle Association is now well organized for the season, and, at a recent target practice, Miss G. B. Reynolds, of the auditor general's office, made a score of 48 out of a possible 50.

The president is Mr. Wensley Thompson, of the Dominion lands

branch, and Miss E. A. Brown, of the immigration branch, is secretary.

The following are on the executive: Miss Beulah Bedard, immigration; Miss Eva Clarke, Miss Isabel Grant, insurance; Miss M. E. Murphy, immigration; Miss E. L. Shattuck, immigration.

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CIVIL SERVICE VS. Y. M. C. A.

Former Chess Players Won Return Match Saturday.

A return match of chess was played at Ottawa between the Civil Service and Y. M. C. A. clubs on Saturday evening at the Y. M. C. A. Unfortunately, at least, one of the strongest players for the Y. M. C. A. was unable to be present, but Mr. Thurlow, the obliging secretary, in a sportsmanlike manner, provided a substitute, thereby assuring a game for each of the visiting players. It

will be seen by the following details that there was not a wide margin in the play of the opposing teams. Mr. J. E. Narraway was present and kindly adjudicated any game that was unfinished at the specified time.

C. S.	
Harrington	0 1
Nelson	1 0
Baker	1 ½
Hale	1 1
Wattsford	1 1
Young	0 1
Way	0 0
Total, 8½ games.	
Y. M. C. A.	
Horwith	1 0
Blackader	1 0
Astle	0 ½
Westmoreland	0 0
Beckwith	0 0
Gourlay	1 0
Russell	1 1
Total, 5½ games.	

The Canadian Fisheries Museum, which has been closed for several years, is again open to the public. The building at the corner of Queen and O'Connor streets has been extensively improved and made more suitable for the use to which it is put. The additional room provided by the removal of the art collection has enabled the director, Mr. Andrew Halkett, to provide an exhibit of Canadian fish which is creditable to the country and a source of great entertainment and education to visitors.

* * *

John Shearer, superintendent of Dominion buildings, has removed his staff from the ground floor to the first floor of the Harris-Campbell building.

Professor Alexander F. Chamberlain, of Clark University, has just completed a preliminary survey of South American Indian languages. He finds a total of eighty-three independent stocks, or families, of languages. While this list will certainly be modified when more complete data are at hand, it is certain that the number of such stocks will not materially change. When one recalls that many of these stocks embrace languages as mutually unintelligible as English and German, the linguistic diversity of the South American native becomes truly astonishing.