

THE CIVILIAN

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No. 22

PULL VERSUS EFFICIENCY.

(Contributed.)

The following resolution was passed by Postal Clerks in Convention at Calgary, June 18th, 1913:—

“Appointments of Postmasters and Inspectors:—

“Proposed that this Association ask that the positions of City Postmasters, Assistant Postmasters, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors be filled by clerks employed in the Post Office Department; the two former positions to be open to clerks employed in post offices only, and that the latter be filled by clerks employed in any Branch of the Postal Service. No clerk to be appointed to either of the foregoing positions unless he has been at least ten years in the Service. Qualifications for such positions to be governed by a competitive examination open to men who are qualified by length of service to sit for same.”

At the Convention held at Edmonton in June, 1914, an amendment to this resolution was before the Convention to eliminate the words “Postmasters” and “Inspectors,” and alter the remainder of the clause to agree with such omission. The amendment was lost, only two delegates voting for same; therefore, the original resolution stands as passed at Calgary.

Most of your readers are no doubt aware of the recommendations made by Sir George Murray in his excellent report on the organization of the Public Service of Canada. The following paragraphs, taken from this report, show how reasonable were the requests made by the Postal Clerks:—

“If the system of examination and

certificate (whether after competitive or merely qualifying examination) is desirable for the Inside Service, it is difficult to understand why it should not be regarded as equally desirable for the Outside Service. I can see no reason why the junior ranks in the Excise and Customs Service, for example, should not be subjected to the same conditions, *mutatis mutandis*, as the junior ranks in the clerical departments of the Inside Service. The Outside Service is, speaking generally, of no less importance than the Inside Service. An efficient staff is no less necessary, and it should be recruited under similar conditions.

“For the same reason promotion in it should follow on the same lines; by which I mean that the prizes of the Service should be reserved for those who have shown themselves capable of performing the highest duties. At present such positions as Postmasterships and Collectorships are filled by the appointment of persons who, whatever their other merits, have not had the advantage of long training in the Service, and are consequently compelled to rely on their subordinates in transacting the business of their Departments. Such a system is fatal to an efficient Service in two ways: the higher positions are filled, not by experts, but by amateurs, and the best type of official is not attracted into the Service, because he recognizes that its prizes are not within his reach.”

The Postal Service has been exploited by politicians for their friends and followers, not to mention the lower elements of society,

for a great number of years, and by both parties. Many glaring instances of the best positions being given to absolute novices have occurred, especially in Western Canada, and it was due to this bartering of Postmasterships, etc., to the highest bidder (in votes) that the Postal Clerks submitted the resolution to the Postmaster General for his consideration. They did not anticipate that such action on their part would bear immediate fruit, but fully expected that the Department would give some consideration to the subject.

Nearly two years have elapsed since this action was taken, yet to-day there is exactly the same thing occurring, viz.: politics before efficiency and long service. In the list of promotions for the month of October, contained in the issue of *The Civilian* of December 25th, we find the following: Regina, L. J. G. Labelle, to Assistant Postmaster; also in the list of resignations, H. F. Kerr, Regina.

The following is an extract from a letter forwarded by the Postal Clerks' Association of Western Canada to the Postmaster General, dated October 7th:—

"I understand, through information received, that the position of Assistant Postmaster at Regina is now vacant. We trust that you will give due consideration to the requests made by this Association, from time to time, that such positions be filled by a qualified man from the staff of the office where such vacancy occurs, or, if no person in such office be deemed to hold the necessary qualifications, then from some other office in Western Canada. I am sure that you will find many capable men in the West fully qualified to hold such a position."

Now, to deal with the manner in which this position was filled, both as regards the appointment of Mr.

Labelle, recently appointed, and Mr. Kerr, ex-Assistant Postmaster,—

Mr. Kerr was brought into the Service without any previous postal experience, at a salary of \$1,600.00 per annum. To qualify him for the duties pertaining to his new position he was given three weeks' training in the post office at Winnipeg. Those familiar with post office routine may judge the qualifications of Mr. Kerr for this position, even after his three weeks' training. Mr. Labelle received his first permanent appointment in the Service on October 1st, 1909, and resigned in 1913. The following is a copy of a letter from the Regina Branch of the P. C. A. of W. C., addressed to the Postmaster General, dealing with the appointment of Mr. Labelle:—

"Dear Sir,—The members of the above branch of the Postal Clerks' Association of Western Canada wish to register a very strong protest against the methods of the Department used in the appointing of an Assistant Postmaster to this office; Mr. Leo J. Labelle, the appointee,—having already apparently severed his connection with the Service, under the conditions given—being appointed over the head of the Acting Assistant, who had every reason to expect,—also the promise of the Postmaster's recommendation,—that he would receive the appointment.

"Mr. Leo J. Labelle was granted three weeks' holiday, with pay, commencing March 20th, 1913, and six months' leave of absence, commencing April 10, 1913, after which he resigned and was paid his retirement allowance. So late as May 8th, 1914, he was granted two months' pay, thus apparently closing his career with the Civil Service.

"It would appear from the foregoing that it is far better for a clerk to resign, and come back into the Service again, as in this case there is a decided gain, for, after leaving the Service, and proving that he is

not able to make a living outside, he is brought back at a greatly enhanced salary.

"The staff of this office feel that this position should have been filled by promotion,—a point strongly advocated by the late Postmaster General,—as in this case there is a competent man quite capable of filling it. Needless to relate, a great deal of dissatisfaction has been created amongst the clerks.

"Such an action as the reappointment of an ex-clerk in preference to any of the clerks who have devoted all of their time and work to the Service is, we feel sure, not conducive to the best interests of the Service.

"We shall be glad to feel that we have your interest in this matter, as we think that an injustice has been done."

Is it not nearly time that the recommendations of Sir George Murray were given some consideration? It is true, in some respects, that the Postal Service offers a little more inducement in the way of more rapid promotion at the present time than when Sir George Murray made his report, yet the plums are still in the possession of the politician, to be held out as prizes for votes and active partisanship. The positions carrying a salary of over \$1,400 per year are still locked against the man with no "pull," or who, should he possess this most essential qualification, is too honourable to use it.

It is very evident that these positions, or, rather, the power of appointment to same, will not be relinquished by either "party" without a stiff fight. In the event of paragraph 91, page 28, Bill 217, being passed without amendment, all the higher positions in the Outside Service will again be forfeited to the use of the "party" or the man with "pull." With regard to the latter, his very presence amongst any body

of Civil Servants invariably breeds dissatisfaction. He seldom does his duty, takes liberties which other men would neither care nor dare to take, and walks around the office as if he owned the place, relying on his political friends to obtain for him that which his own endeavour would never get in a thousand years.

Not only does the politician hold the strings to the higher positions, he also has it in his power to stop a clerk's promotion in the Service, even after the clerk has passed all necessary examinations and has been recommended for promotion. Such interference has been proved beyond a shadow of doubt, and it is up to the men in the Service to put their backs against the wall and fight this question to a finish.

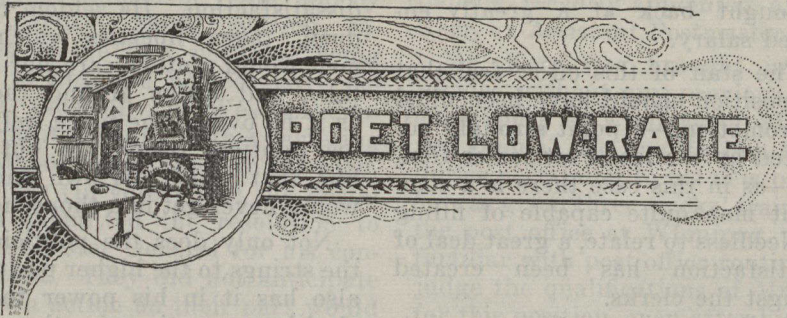
NEVER HEARD OF US.

To the Editors *The Civilian*:

Kindly find enclosed one dollar for one year subscription to *The Civilian*. I wish I had known sooner of this valuable publication, that I consider indispensable to members of the Civil Service. Your editorial taught me what I should have known. The Belgian Mother is one of the best poems that one can peruse, and I should say everything printed in *The Civilian* is highly inspired as a whole, but the most striking is "A Plum Pudding Empire." To the writer of this article please let me say that it will be surprising if the harmony that exists between all of our dear Mother's Colonies were not united towards Her in this present conflict.

If my English writing is not perfect the heart that dictates the foregoing expressions is true.

NAP. OSTIGNY,
Sub-Agent Dominion Lands.
Bonnyville, Alta., Jan. 27, 1915.



“MOTHER”

What knight of the pencil or pen would dare
 To copy your eyes, your lips, your hair,
 What artist with paint, palette and brush
 Could picture your smile, your tear, your blush?
 Yet I, with a single loving line
 Can pen the letters that call thee “mine.”

What poet could sing of the love that lies
 Deep in those lakes that form your eyes,
 What maestro could sing of the word or note
 That breathes or trills from your loving throat
 Like those of the nightingale or lark,
 That herald the dawn from out the dark?

What moulder of clay could understand
 The beauty that lies within your hand,
 What sculptor with fingers and chisel keen
 Could model your form, the fairest seen,
 Or fashion the stone to shape your breast,
 More beautiful far than all the rest?

What lover of art could see the charm
 Of your hidden heart, or dimpled arm,
 Or what human eyes could ever see
 The love in the kiss that waits for me?
 Nay; Kings are poorer with a throne
 Than I, with all my fate unknown,
 For I can call thee, dear, MY OWN.

THE GAME

By Jack Cadden.

Where the staunch, true steel is gleaming lies our path along the miles,
From beyond the riven Rockies to the fair Atlantic isles;
From the line that knots the nations in a common sisterhood,
To the barren lands that border on the Arctic's solitude.
Day and night the wheels are whirling, and the task goes on and on,
Night and day the miles are mastered, but the task is never done,
Stronger than the laws that bind us, or the urge of greed and fame
Comes the motto of the Service,—comes the watchword: "Play the game!"

It is ours to hold or hasten, it is ours to make or mar,
Yet we serve a trusting nation and the measure's full and fair;
From the pineland to the prairies, from the prairies to the sea,
Little known and little heeded goes the work unceasingly.
Thro' our hands the threads are flying with a poignant purpose rife,
As we weave our little patterns in the patchwork quilt of Life;
And there comes a satisfaction from the ends that we attain
In the struggle and endeavor when we know we've played the game.

So I pay my humble tribute to the lads I'll never know,
Who are striving for the Service where the iron highways go,
Lads of every land and station, with a common cause in view:
Just to serve a trusting nation and maintain a record true.
Tho' the grade is hard and heavy till the goal at last is won,
Tho' the millions they are serving, little heed the service done,
Yet the law of Compensation, while it seldom leads to Fame,
Will reward the sterling merits of the lads who play the game!

I'M HELPING.

By Jessie M. Smith.

I'm just a very little boy,
As all can plainly see,
But every moment of each day
I'm busy as can be.

Of course I carry in the wood,
And fetch the water too;
There's always scores of little chores
A chap like me must do.

But since my country's gone to war,
And calls her loyalists true,
I've 'listed, not to fight, but work.
I'm helping now, are you?

I've knitted one whole pair of socks.
At first it was a task,
But now I've such a jolly plan
No better fun I'd ask.

I call each stitch a soldier brave,
So must not knit too tight;

For fear I crowd my soldiers up,
They must have room to fight.

The ribs are gallant officers
Who lead their men along;
Such splendid fellows they must be,
I knit them firm and strong.

The heel's a column on defence,
All strongly reinforced;
In vain the Germans charge and plunge
I see them all unhorsed.

The narrows are the battles fought,
There countless soldiers drop;
I fear to see them fall so fast
Lest none should reach the top.

More thick and fast the battles come,
But courage does not wane.
At last, at last, the goal is reached,
Six gallant braves remain,

I hasten then to darn it up,
To make the fort secure.
Hurrah! hurrah! we've won the day,
A victory great and sure.

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THE EDITORS,
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Ottawa, Feb. 5, 1915

SIR ROBERT BORDEN IN HALIFAX PLATFORM.

A thorough and complete re-formation of the laws relating to the Civil Service should be put into effect, so that future appointments shall be made by an independent commission acting upon the report of examiners after competitive examination. I am convinced that we shall perform a great public duty by establishing in this country that system which prevails in Great Britain, under which a member of Parliament has practically no voice in or control over any appointment to the Civil Service.

To use the power of filling positions in the public service as a reward for party service and without regard to the character and capacity of the individual selected is a gross breach of a solemn public trust. A private trustee so dishonouring his office would be subject to punishment by the criminal law.

OUR BOYS

DEAD

LOUIS DE NOAILLES,

Killed at the Yser,
November, 1914.

PAUL HUMBERT,

Killed at Perthes-les-Hurlus,
Jan. 8, 1915.

A. NICHOLSON,

Killed Jan. 26, 1915.

WOUNDED

M. DORGAS,

At St. Feri, Sept. 18, 1914.

GEORGES P. HUGUET,

At Ville-sur-Turbe,
Sept. 25, 1914.

PRISONER

YVES RIOUX.

JOIN THE COLOURS.

Each member of the King's Civil Service in Canada must satisfy his own immortal soul as to the fulfilment of his full share as a citizen of a nation in arms. There may be good reasons why this one or that one has not joined the colours. In some cases the reasons do not seem visible to the naked eye, and it will be our shame if the proportion of Canadian-born British subjects is not greater in succeeding contingents than it proved to be in the first.

Those of us who remain at home are not without responsibilities. We have colours of our own, and now when we have suffered a reverse legislatively is the time to get together and join our colours. Has the reader of these lines joined his Association and is he assisting in its work of solving the problems of government ownership? Ottawa affords an excellent opportunity to bring pressure to

bear in this respect, for in the Capital there are a number of subsidiary societies. We will mention one of these societies by way of illustration.

Brethren of the Ottawa Service, both Outside and Inside, so called, have you done yourself honour by making yourself eligible to receive one of those little annual missives from the Savings and Loan Society. The writer has one before him at this moment. It reads:—

Shares	\$10.00
Deposits	11.53
	\$21.53

The \$11.53 represents accumulated dividend on two shares at 5% and interest on a small deposit at 4%. The amount is not large, but it represents membership, co-operation. Have you received one of these, gentle reader? If not, you should get Mr. James to mail you one to see how pleasant it is to be a partner in Civil Service undertakings. Some time ago a young lady of the Service joined the Savings and Loan Society. Then she persuaded a friend to join. The friend soon brought in a third member, and so well were all three pleased with their enterprise that the trio is now a quartette,—all “making money” on the Society’s plan. This is an illustration of what nearly always happens when the Savings and Loan Society becomes known in any little circle of Civil Servants.

MERIT BY EDUCATION.

There are “ups and downs” in this world, as the elevator man so justly remarked. We have them in the Civil Service. In Bill No. 229, with a judicial embodiment of the recommendations of the Inside Association and of the Federation, we have a Superannuation scheme at once scientific, equitable and effective. But as regards the Merit System, we lag far in the

rear of the procession of other kindred Anglo-Saxon nations and principalities. The Merit System under Independent Commissions is strongly entrenched, at least theoretically, in the Service of the British Government at home as well as in the Services of the self-governing units of the Empire. The United States, not remarkable for its radicalism in social reform, has made a remarkable record in this respect, having over 400,000 Civil Servants under merit laws.

How can we best make progress in this great meritorious propaganda of Honour and Justice. The road will be long, and perhaps the present generation of patriotic Civil Service committees and organizations are working for the credit of Canada which may be fully consummated only after years of concentrated effort.

As a stimulus to public sentiment we believe the Federation should undertake to have the plain issues as between Merit and Spoils taught in our schools and universities in connection with courses in history, civil government, political economy, or like subjects. The proposal might be published in every Province of the Dominion, and we believe the educational departments of the Provinces would be amenable to an idea so instinct with Ethical significance.

We would then have the young student, boy or girl, coming home and telling father, who is running for Parliament what an atrocious weapon for inflicting injustice is this thing known as patronage. Father hearing the truth about patronage for the first time, perhaps, would appreciate the problem of clean government before his mind became hardened by the constant practice of its abuses.

Even though the Prime Minister were to put into effect the terms of his Halifax platform at a stroke, the purposes of such an educational influence on the growing mind would be beneficial to the State, for experience

in all countries shows that there is a perpetual supply of selfish and unscrupulous people who will make assaults upon the foundations of good government for the sake of personal gain.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

Commissioner Shortt of the Shortt-LaRochelle Merit Commission, gave an interesting address at the People's Forum at Ottawa on last Sunday evening. The matter of the address has been found to be too voluminous for reproduction in the present number of *The Civilian* and too important to be reduced to the available space. The Service is indebted to the Commissioner for a frank recital of some

of the ills fastened upon the Public Service by the petty politicians. Commissioner Shortt performed a public service in this lecture as far as he went and probably as far as he could go in the limited time at his disposal, in which to deal with a subject as broad as the Dominion itself. In the next issue the lecture will be given as fully as possible.

To Be Used Together.

A druggist lately received a hurried call from a small girl, who desired to purchase liniment and some cement.

"Liniment and cement?" repeated the pharmacist, puzzled by the unique order. "Going to use 'em at the same time?"

"Yes," promptly replied the youngster, "Ma, she hit pa with a pitcher."—Chicago "Leader."

CIVIL SERVICE LEGISLATION

That Mr. Robert S. White, the President of the Civil Service Federation, should take up the duties of his new office seriously, and at the earliest opportunity, will be heard with pleasure and without surprise to those who know him. Mr. White was of the opinion that to learn the attitude of the Government in regard to the two bills was a matter of first importance. He therefore wrote the Prime Minister making the enquiry on behalf of the Federation. For the information of the Service the reply of the Prime Minister is herewith reproduced so that its exact terms may be understood.

Ottawa, Ont., February 2nd, 1915.

My Dear Mr. White,—

In reply to your letter of the 1st instant, the two bills which you mention and other bills of equal importance will not be submitted to Parliament during the present session, which will be devoted exclusively to measures occasioned by or arising out of the war and the conditions which it creates. Whenever the Civil Service Bill and Superannuation Bill are proceeded with we shall be glad to have the suggestions of the Civil Service Federation.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) R. L. BORDEN.

R. S. WHITE, Esq., President Civil Service Federation of Canada,
Montreal, Que.



CIVIL SERVICE ALDERMEN.

In the last issue of *The Civilian* there appeared under the "Athletic" column a portrait of Alderman Harry Ackland.

As was stated then, the representation of that vast body of Ottawa citizens, the Civil Service, in the City Council, has now been reduced to two aldermen. A few short years ago there were two controllers and five aldermen at the City Hall.

The Civilian has much pleasure in producing herewith a portrait of the "senior alderman" of our two representatives, Mr. George J. O'Connor, one of the staff of the Statistical Branch, Department of Customs.

Mr. O'Connor, who is the youngest member of the civic body, comes to it naturally, for his father, Mr. James O'Connor, sat in the Council for Ottawa Ward for ten years, when he was Chairman of the Waterworks Committee.

The present alderman was born in the Capital, and educated in the Separate schools and Ottawa University. He then served an apprenticeship in the old Canada Atlantic Railway

shops for five years. He entered the Government Service in 1905.

Mr. O'Connor is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Civil Service Club, A. O. Hibernians, and an enthusiastic member of the St. Hubert's Gun Club, where he has shown much prowess.

The alderman was first elected to the City Council for St. George's Ward in 1911, and re-elected ever since. This leaves him in the somewhat anomalous position of being the oldest and yet the youngest member of the present Council. He is extremely popular with the Civil Service and the public generally.

MAIN ESTIMATES, 1915-16.

The main estimates for 1915-16 have been laid on the table by the Minister of Finance, and the main features as they affect the members of the Service may be pointed out.

In civil government the usual provision has been made for the statutory increment, though the provision for new clerkships is very much less than in former years. The usual increases are also provided for in the Post Offices, Inspectors' Offices, and the Railway Mail Service. Weights and measures, gas and electric light inspection gets an increase of \$11,600, from \$101,000 to \$112,600, for salaries. Excise gets total salary increase of \$5,546.25, from \$565,278.75 to \$570,825. The poor old Customs gets not a cent. The only increase in the whole Customs vote is \$5,000 for secret preventive service. Votes for other services are not ascertainable by the estimates, and, therefore, no inferences can be drawn.

An industrial system which demands and requires efficiency must provide against age, infirmity and unemployment.—Toronto "News."

The Roll of Honour.

Two more servants of the Government of Canada have given up their lives for the cause—Paul Humbert, of the Department of Agriculture, and A. Nicholson, of the Dominion Police. One was a Frenchman, fighting in France, with a French regiment, the other a Scotsman, fighting in France in a Canadian regiment. Their services and deaths for the same ideal typify the Anglo-French alliance.

Of such as these are the men whose names appear in our Roll of Honour.

FOURTEENTH LIST.

First Contingent.

- C. E. Bent, Customs, Amherst, N.S., 17th (Overseas) Battalion.
 W. E. A. Rowat, Customs, Athelston, Que., 5th (Overseas) Battery, C.I.A.
 F. H. C. Wilcox, Customs, Fort William, Lancashire Fusiliers.
 E. E. W. Moore, Customs, Hamilton.
 W. F. Peterman, Customs, North Bay, 3th (Overseas) Battalion.
 N. U. Rivard, Customs, Emerson, Man., 8th (Overseas) Battalion.
 Chas. L. Edwards, Customs, Emerson, Man., Veterinary Corps.

Second Contingent.

- Sergt. W. J. McCullough, Post Office, Kingston, 14th Regiment, P.W.O.R.
 F. J. Phillips, Letter Carrier, Kingston, 14th Regiment, P.W.O.R.
 W. Chivers, Trade and Commerce, Winnipeg, 27th (Overseas) Battalion.
 O. Cliff, Trade and Commerce, Fort William, 96th Regiment.
 L. Mooney, Trade and Commerce, Fort William, 96th Regiment.
 C. Rowe, Trade and Commerce, Fort William, 96th Regiment.
 A. Lucas, Trade and Commerce, Fort William, 96th Regiment.
 J. Currie, Trade and Commerce, Fort William, 96th Regiment.
 E. A. Geen, Customs, Belleville, 21st (Overseas) Battalion.
 J. E. Foreman, Customs, Hamilton, 19th (Overseas) Battalion.
 F. J. Quinn, Customs, Hamilton, 33rd Howitzer Battery.
 T. W. Farmer, Customs, Hamilton, 1st Mounted Rifles (Overseas).
 Lieut. H. A. Pratt-Pierce, Customs, Fort Francis, 2th (Overseas) Battalion.

MORE DOMINION POLICE.

Marked increase in the strength of the Dominion Police has been one result of the war. Parliament each year gets a return showing the average number of police employed in each month of the year. In July it was 119. Since then there has been a steady increase until at the end of December 382 men were enrolled.

The Government buildings at Ot-

tawa are very closely guarded, while, since the session began, no strangers are allowed around the House of Commons or in the galleries without making known their business and satisfying the police as to their good intentions. Several instances have arisen where strangers entering the House with grips have had to open them up. This rule has been productive both of embarrassment and amusement. The regular police are assisted by a squad of plain clothes men.

WESTERN FEDERATION RY. MAIL CLERKS.

Annual Meeting.

A fortnight ago *The Civilian* published some facts about the annual meeting of the above Association, which were gleaned from a newspaper clipping. Mr. Aitken, the Secretary, has forwarded an official report, and as many salient features are missing in the former report, Mr. Aitken's account is now given as follows:—

The Western Railway Mail Clerks' Federation held its annual meeting in Moose Jaw on January 19, all four provinces being represented. The financial statement for the year just closed showed that the Federation was progressing favourably, while the correspondence dealt with showed that more than a passing interest was taken in it by all concerned.

The discussion on new steel mail cars brought out a few points where improvements might be made, and these were recommended to the Comptroller Railway Mail Service. The question of accident insurance was laid over pending the finding of the Civil Service Federation at Ottawa. Regarding case examinations for mail clerks at present serving their country at the front, it was felt that their services would be duly recognized by the Department on their return, and that this Federation would not make any suggestion for any special compensation.

Regarding the change in the present style of buttons, which was felt necessary, it was decided to call for suggestions for an improvement, these to be dealt with at the next meeting.

One of the by-laws of the Federation was changed to allow for the electing of officers for the coming year at an earlier date, and having officers for the ensuing year appointed at the semi-annual meeting to be held in September of each year.

Federation officers for 1915 were confirmed as follows: President, W. MacPherson, Winnipeg; Vice-President, N. Penton, Brandon; Treasurer, M. D. Creighton, Vancouver; Secretary, J. B. Aitken, Calgary.

Mr. MacPherson gave a very interesting address on the Civil Service Federation meeting held in Ottawa on Jan. 7-8-9, which was much appreciated.

The thanks of the Federation are due Messrs. Herbert and Haney, former officers, who relinquished their offices at the close of 1914. The efforts of these two men have done much to further the ends of the Federation.

The Saskatchewan Railway Mail Clerks' Association provided an excellent banquet in honour of the delegates to the Federation. After a tasty supper, accompanied by special music, short speeches were delivered by W. B. Willoughby, M.L.A., S. K. Rathwell, Post Office Inspector McNaughton and others.

The next meeting will be held at Calgary in September.

OTTAWA C. S. BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since the report of this Society was published a fortnight ago, Mr. Watson has made a valuation of the liabilities of the Association to members on account of future death claims, the salient features of which are as follows: The amount assured, covering all ages, totalled \$85,500, with monthly rates valued at \$135.22, the present values of sum assured being \$34,949, and present values of rates valued \$23,278, the liability for future death claims being \$11,671, which assured a handsome surplus of between six and seven thousand dollars for the Association. Recommendation was made that a \$2.00 bonus increase be added to the sum assured of each member in good standing as at 31st December,

1914, and Mr. Watson predicted a like addition at the end of each year, provided an aggressive effort to increase the membership followed. The officers of the Association were congratulated by the actuary on the strong position of the organization, and added that any employee of the Department might well feel proud of being a member thereof.

Members of the Civil Service Mutual Benefit Society in the several Departments have been holding meetings during the past fortnight to elect representatives to the Executive Committee. The campaign for membership which this organization is about to inaugurate has, in fact, already been commenced by the activities of present members among their friends. With the splendid proposition that the Society makes to the young men of the Service, its "forward movement" should meet with great success.

POSTAL CLERKS' ASSN. OF WESTERN CANADA.

Mr. J. W. Green, a delegate to the C. S. Federation Convention on behalf of the above association, has issued a report to the various branches of his association, of which the following is a copy:—

I beg to inform you that at a special meeting of the Winnipeg Branch it was decided to accept the invitation of the Civil Service Federation of Canada to send a representative to their Convention. I had the honour to be chosen as delegate, and, as many of you are aware, I was present at the Convention. I am enclosing a report of the proceedings at the Convention.

You will notice that I did not move or second any motion with the exception of a motion to amend the Constitution. This was due to the fact that I was present in an unofficial capacity and as a guest of honour. At the same time, I occasionally joined in

the discussion, although this does not appear in the report. The object for which I was sent to this Convention was to form an opinion of the desirability of this Association affiliating with the Federation, and also to get in touch with the representatives of the various Postal Clerks' Associations in Eastern Canada, with the idea of stimulating the Association movement in the East, and to sound them on the question of forming a Dominion Association of Postal Clerks. In this respect I was fairly successful, and have been requested to send out a circular to the Eastern Associations stating my views, and their representatives will endeavour to foster the idea and will do their best towards the attainment of this end.

With regard to the Civil Service Federation of Canada I can only say that I met with the most courteous treatment while at Ottawa, and came away fully satisfied in my mind that the business of the Federation was conducted in a very fair and able manner, both as concerns their officers and the delegates present at the Convention. There was no indication of any desire on the part of members of the Inside Service to run the Federation for their particular benefit, and with the alteration in their Constitution, as proposed by myself, I certainly think it desirable for our Association to join forces with this body. In unity there is strength. Our own Association has proved how true is this saying. We can, of course, take no further action in this respect until our next Convention, but in the meantime I would request you to study the enclosed report and form your own opinion of the merits of the Federation.

I would particularly draw your attention to the report of the Executive on the Superannuation Bill. This report is as passed by the Convention, and was only slightly altered from the original report submitted. I was responsible for the addition of the words

"and other allowances in any department of the Public Service" in Section 2 (k), page 20, having in mind the Provisional Allowance. Taken as a whole, it must be admitted that this report is an excellent piece of work, and speaks well for the interest which the members of the Executive take in the work of the Federation, also their ability.

The representatives from the various Postal Clerks' Associations met in committee on three occasions, and a memorial was drawn up to be submitted to the P. M. G. I herewith enclose a copy of same. Here, again, I am pleased to say that I was given an opportunity to further our interests. You will no doubt readily recognize my work, as you are all familiar with the recommendations passed at our Conventions. With regard to recommendation No. 1, it will interest you to know that the Department had ruled that clerks appointed on April 1st, 1912, would be required to take the qualifying examination in order to obtain a salary over \$1,000.

I am trying to get a recommendation submitted to the Government, through the medium of the Federation, that clerks employed in semi-staff offices be placed on the same footing as clerks in city offices. This matter will be placed before the committees referred to on page 10 of the report by Mr. Cantwell, acting on my behalf.

I have great pleasure in informing you that a new branch of this Association has been formed at Lethbridge. The officers of this Branch for the current year are as follows: President, H. S. White; Vice-President, J. G. Huggett; Secretary, A. G. Oliver; Treasurer, D. H. Glayzer.

TORONTO CUSTOMS NEWS.

Mr. H. J. Kelly, for several years a member of the Toronto Customs staff, died after an illness of several months. A wife and family survive him.

Joe Bagnato, a member of the Customs Postal Branch staff, is in the hospital, where he underwent an operation for internal trouble.

A well attended meeting of the Customs Civil Service Association of Toronto was recently held, when the delegates to the Federation meeting in Ottawa gave an interesting report of the proceedings.

Mr. J. R. McCaffrey, surveyor, is spending his holidays down in balmy Bermuda.

Mr. Charles Ingram mourns the death of his wife, which took place on Sunday, in her 72nd year. She was mother of Mr. W. Ingram, also a member of the staff.

Mr. J. R. McCaffry, surveyor, passed his 64th milestone on Saturday. He is as youthful as a boy of fifty, and enjoys the best of health.

Mr. James Watts, one of the younger members employed in the Customs Postal Branch, is taking a holiday, due to the fact that he is allowing blood to be drawn from his body for his mother, who is in delicate health.

Inspector Busby and staff have completed their annual inspection of this port, after spending several weeks here. A few changes of method were suggested, the work generally being found in good condition. Inspector A. M. Kennedy efficiently supervised most of the work, Chief Inspector Busby being engaged elsewhere.

Several members of the staff are on the sick list, among them being Mr. Charles E. Gray and Mr. Robt. Bain, father of Mr. John Bain, Ottawa.

KINGSTON P. O. CLERKS' ASSN.

At a meeting held at Kingston, Jan. 16th, the Postal Clerks' Association elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, R. E. Genge; Vice-President, W. T. Harkness; Secretary, Jas. F. Kane; Treasurer, Geo. B. Scott.

C. S. ASSN. OF OTTAWA.

The regular meeting of the Executive of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa was held on Tuesday, February 2nd.

An interim report was received from the committee on the Civil Service Bill, and the final report is expected shortly. Reports were also received from the sub-committee on Superannuation, and the sub-committee on the Third Division. Neither of these reports were reached for discussion. The main part of the evening was taken up in a discussion on the question of re-organization, as outlined in Sec. 16 of the Bill. No decision was reached in the matter, but many valuable suggestions were offered as to the course which should be pursued. This matter will be again taken up at an early opportunity, and it is hoped that the policy of the Association will be settled on that occasion.

OTTAWA CARRIERS' BANQUET.

The Letter Carriers of Ottawa and Hull (under the auspices of the Federation Branch) held their annual banquet on the evening of February 6th. These annual events cover a period of more than thirty years, with few omissions, and the last one showed by the large attendance that the interest is fully maintained. Toasts were drunk to the King, Postmaster General, our country, our city, the Postmaster, Federated Association of Letter Carriers, our heroes, the ladies and press. The responders called upon by the chairman, J. E. Fauteux, were W. Crawshaw, T. A. Ledoux, Jos. Larue, F. J. George, F. X. Giroux, sr., Wm. Lamb, J. A. Gouin, W. O. Mercier, A. Martin, J. O. Noel, H. Kitcheman, A. Goulet, W. Willet, H. Larocque and W. Lodge.

During the toast to our heroes at the front, Mr. G. A. Dixon read letters from R. Lacroix, A. Lapointe and R. Walter, three of the members now serving with the first contingent, all asking to be remembered at the festive board as well as expressing a wish that next year would see them all in attendance again. The musical part of the evening's pleasure was undertaken by M. Bonnice, J. E. Fauteux, N. Toft and H. Larocque. Thanks were extended to B.

Everest, Ottawa Floral Co., and the W. Lindsay Co., for courtesies extended and to the committee composed of J. U. Dorval, H. Duchene, F. X. Giroux, sr., J. J. White, G. A. Petitchere, chairman, for their successful efforts expended in making the annual gathering so enjoyable.

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTES.

The Hon. Mr. Casgrain has passed an order-in-council granting all letter carriers, permanent and temporary, actually employed as such, delivering letters on the street, a half holiday on Saturday afternoons during the months of July and August of each year.

* * *

The Journal of the Civil Service of New South Wales, Australia, is operated by the Association, and copies are delivered free. The total deficit in operating the paper last year was £297, which the Association paid.

* * *

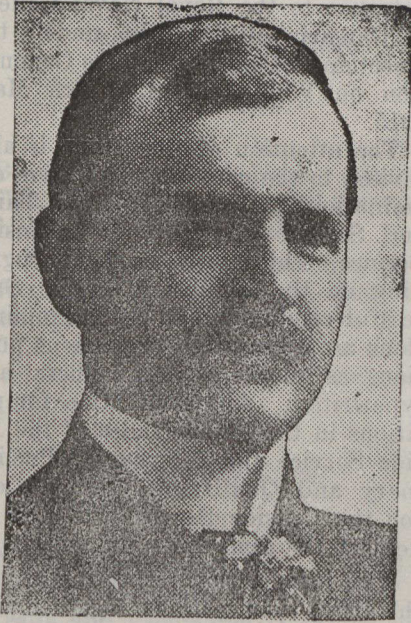
The Municipal Civil Service Commission of the city of New York has under its jurisdiction 55,570 employees, all under competitive classification except 6,900. During the past year this Commission, composed of three men, certified 23,843 payrolls and vouchers and 9,874 changes of status, — appointments, promotions, etc.

* * *

Arthur Woods, police commissioner of the city of New York, is to inaugurate a monthly magazine, with no advertising and no subscriptions; free copies will be issued to the 10,500 officers of the force. The commissioner wishes to be able to talk to each and every man, and he will not have to colour his talk according to the tinctures compounded in advertisements. The experiment is unique and worthy of a great success.

OTTAWA CIVIL SERVICE CLUB DINNER.

The third monthly Club Dinner of the Civil Service Club of Ottawa, which took place on Monday evening, Feb. 15th, may fairly be said to have been the best in the winter's series. The seating capacity of the dining room was taxed, notwithstanding the fact that many of the regular attendants were unable to be present owing to the imperative demands of military lectures, etc.



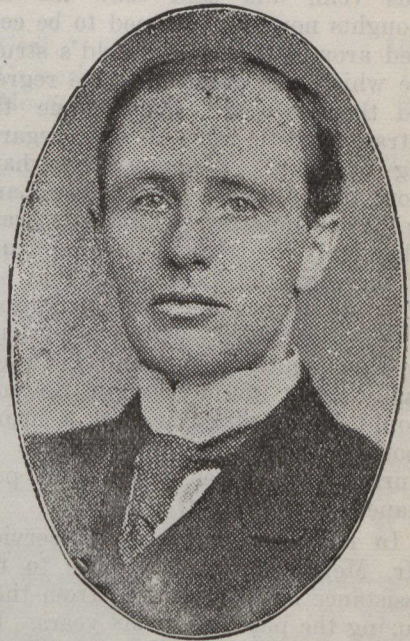
HON. P. E. BLONDIN,
Minister of Inland Revenue.

The dinner was what might be called a "double header" in that there were on this occasion two guests, viz.: Hon. P. E. Blondin, the youthful Minister of Inland Revenue, who has but recently assumed office in the Cabinet, and Hon. Arthur Meighen, the eloquent Solicitor-General.

The dining room was prettily decorated with British and French flags when the company sat down at 8 o'clock. The menu was an improvement upon the previous bills, and was

much enjoyed by all. The President of the Club, Mr. Simeon Lelievre, occupied the chair, with Mr. Blondin upon his right and Mr. Meighen on his left. Upon Mr. Blondin's right sat Major E. J. Chambers, Usher of the Black Rod, while Mr. Meighen had upon his left Mr. J. deL. Tache, the King's Printer. The vice-chair was filled by Mr. Arthur Beaudesne, K.C.

After the King had been duly honoured, followed by "The Allies," the President called upon Hon. Mr. Blondin, who was introduced by some ex-



HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN,
Solicitor-General.

tended and fitting remarks by the chair. The Minister, on rising, was cordially cheered by the assemblage. Mr. Blondin's remarks, like those of Mr. Meighen, who followed him, had a strong military tinge, as befitted the times. He said that all should be in sympathy with their comrades at the front who were fighting the battles. Incidentally, he referred to the reported visit to Ottawa of the aeroplanes, and the darkness on Parliament Hill. The Minister made a most

kindly reference to the Civil Service, stating that no one had any stronger sympathy with that great body than himself. He felt it a pleasure and an honour to be invited to address them. Mr. Blondin concluded by saying that his colleague, the eloquent Solicitor-General, could better voice in English his feelings.

In response to the toast in his honour the Hon. Mr. Meighen made several witty sallies, some of which were reminiscent of his early days at the bar. He then lapsed into a more serious vein, and said that all his thoughts nowadays seemed to be centred around the great world's struggle which was going on. He regretted that he could not assume the ultra-optimistic view of some regarding the war. Canadians, perhaps more than those in the Mother Land or the continent, were unable to grasp adequately the tremendous magnitude of the conflict. Yet he felt that out of it all there would arise in France a new Bonaparte—who was perhaps even now on the scene—and that eventually Right would triumph, Belgium would be re-established on a firmer footing, and the smallest nations of Europe guaranteed sound and permanent government.

In referring to the Civil Service, Mr. Meighen paid a tribute to the assistance he had received from them during the past five or six years. He had been glad to make use of the knowledge and intelligence which they possessed. As he sat at the table, he listened to French and English conversations on either side of him, and realized the blending of two great races—the Wolfes and Montcalms—working together for the common good.

Hon. Mr. Blondin was then asked to say a few words in French, which he did most gracefully and eloquently, his keynote being that Right would and must conquer over Might.

The musical programme consisted of songs by Messrs. Charles Parkin-

son, A. R. Morriset and E. T. Smith, which were enthusiastically received. Professor A. Tremblay presided as usual at the piano. The Club is deeply indebted to this gentleman's cheerful co-operation in all their festive occasions, notwithstanding his many engagements.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Public Notice is hereby given that a general competitive examination for entrance to the Royal Naval College of Canada will be held under the direction of the Civil Service Commission on Wednesday, the 12th May, 1915.

The attention of the public is also invited to the general competitive examinations for positions in the Third and Second Divisions of the Inside Service, which will be held beginning on the 10th May, 1915. Successful competitors at these examinations are guaranteed permanent positions as clerks, stenographers and typewriters. An examination for positions in the lower grades of the Inside Service and the regular Preliminary and Qualifying Examinations for the Outside Service will also be held at the same time and places.

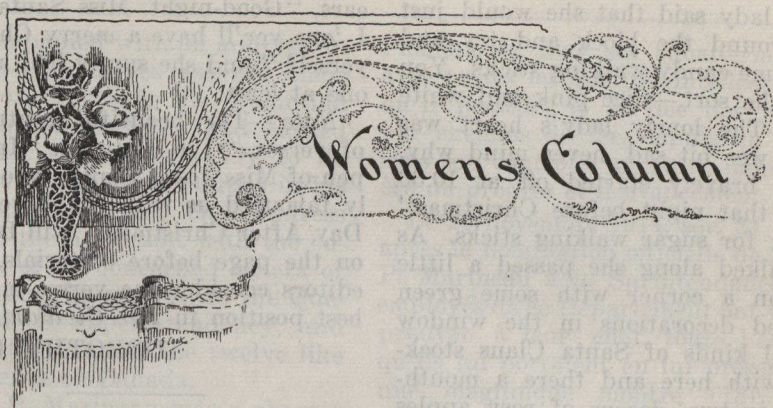
Full information respecting any of the above examinations, together with the necessary application forms, may be obtained from the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, either on personal application or by writing.

By order of the Commission,

WM. FORAN,
Secretary.

Ottawa, 3rd February, 1915.

The man who is good only on Sundays is going to shovel as much coal as the rest of us when the embalmer gets through with him.



WOMEN'S COLUMN.

Reminders.

A meeting of the Advertising Board will be held Friday evening, Feb. 19th, in the Carnegie Library. A full attendance is requested.

The general monthly meeting of the Women's Branch Association will take place on March 4th in the Y. W. C. A., at which Mr. Drake, of the Interior Dept., will speak on "Superannuation."

* * *

Emergency Fund.

RECEIPTS.

Previously reported	\$543 69
Secretary of State	95
Trade and Commerce (Census)	1 00
Audit Office	15
Interior	2 90
Total	\$548 69

DISBURSEMENTS.

Previously reported	\$433 55
Sewing Relief Committee . .	25 00
Miss Whiteave's Mission . .	20 00
Stenographer at Welfare Bureau (2 weeks)	10 00
Assistant at Welfare Bureau (2 weeks)	10 00
Rent for family (1 month) .	12 00

Coal	10 60
Groceries	1 30
Mocassins, etc.	2 75
Total	\$525 20

Since the last statement the Sewing Relief Committee reports 86 articles handed out to 5 families and charitable institutions, and 10 women supplied with sewing. The Committee is doing splendid work, and special mention should be made of their effort to give employment rather than money to these women. Very often this has been accomplished at the cost of much labour on the part of the Committee.

The Red Cross work is progressing very satisfactorily, and the articles made are a credit to the workers. The women of the Service are responding nobly to the appeals which have been made from time to time and the result is very satisfactory.

* * *

The Santa Claus Lady.

At the last minute on Christmas Eve the busy mother found that she had forgotten the candy sugar-canes for the Christmas tree. Now everybody knows that a Christmas tree is not a Christmas tree at all without sugar walking sticks, any more than it would be without lights, so the

lonely lady said that she would just run around the block and try and find some candy walking sticks. You know the sort,—nice pink and white ones. The lonely lady's heart was just a wee bit sad, never mind why, as she bravely started off at 10.30 p.m. "that night before Christmas" to look for sugar walking sticks. As she walked along she passed a little shop on a corner with some green and red decorations in the window and all kinds of Santa Claus stockings, with here and there a mouth-organ or two, dozens of rosy apples and candy in many shapes and forms. Standing before the window with his face glued to a clear spot in the glass, which he had made by dint of much breathing and rubbing, was a forlorn looking small boy. As the lonely lady passed by she caught a look of longing in the dirty little face which made her pause and turn back. She tapped the small boy on the shoulder and said, "Wouldn't you like some candy?"

"Gee! Yes, ma'm, you bet!" came back in incredulous tones.

In they marched and the small boy was urged to pick out some of each thing he wanted until even he paused and said, "Am I havin' too much, lady, cause it costs an awful lot of money?" On being assured that he might have all he wanted, he selected a mouth-organ and bugle and a bag of red apples topped by three Santa Claus stockings,—evidently for his smaller brothers and sisters. Then with happy eyes beaming into hers he bestowed a brilliant smile on the lonely lady and started off for home, hugging his treasures. As he reached the door of the little shop he turned and said, "Good-night, Miss Santa Claus, and I 'ope yer'll have a merry Christmas yerself."

And somehow the lonely lady felt no longer lonely, but quite jolly and happy, as she trudged home with her candy walking sticks, while a rough little voice kept ringing in her

ears, "Good-night, Miss Santa Claus, I 'ope yer'll have a merry Christmas yerself," and she surely had a happy one at least.

Note.—The beautiful contribution of verses, "I'm Helping," from the pen of Miss Jessie Smith, who recently favoured us with her clever "The Day After Christmas," will be found on the page before editorials, as the editors consider the verses merit the best position in *The Civilian*.

DOROTHY DAY.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE AT QUEBEC.

By Order-in-Council, dated from Ottawa, November the 2nd, 1914, Mr. J. P. Marineau, whose photograph is reproduced today, Chief Clerk in the R. M. S. Branch at Quebec, was appointed Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service Branch for Quebec Division. The new Superintendent is a man in all the vigor of life, notwithstanding he accounts for 20 years in the Mail Service. Born at Three Rivers, Quebec, on December the 8th, 1864, he has been a Quebecer for many years, and resides on Maple avenue, Quebec City. Mr. Marineau made his complete course of classical studies at Three Rivers Seminary. On October 18th, 1894, he was appointed Mail Officer in Quebec Division. His instruction, joined with his natural observative and cultivated mind, enabled him to become a most useful member of the R. M. S..

Mr. Marineau enjoys the esteem and love of all under his supervision, and with his intellectual qualities the R. M. S. Branch, dating from his appointment, has made marked progress.

On November 26th, viz., 24 days only after the official appointment as superintendent, all the members of the R. M. S. staff presented Mr. Marineau with a gold watch and locket. This generous and spontaneous gift

was accompanied with an address, in which the employees assured their chief of the pleasure his promotion to the superintendency had caused them; that they were ready to do their best to lighten his duties in his new responsibilities. The address embodied the hope that with the co-operation of all concerned an era of progress may be assured to the Quebec R. M. S. superintendency, and put it at the head of the twelve like Departments of Canada.

Mr. J. P. Marineau was a charter member of our Civil Servants' Federation in April, 1909, and since that time has been a warm friend of the organization.

SERVICE DES MALLES PAR CHEMINS DE FER.

**Monsieur J. P. Marineau, nommé
Surintendant de la division
de Québec.**

Par arrêté en conseil des Ministres datant d'Ottawa du 2 novembre 1914, M. J. P. Marineau, Commis-Chef du Service des Malles, est nommé Surintendant du Service des Malles par Chemins de Fer à Québec.

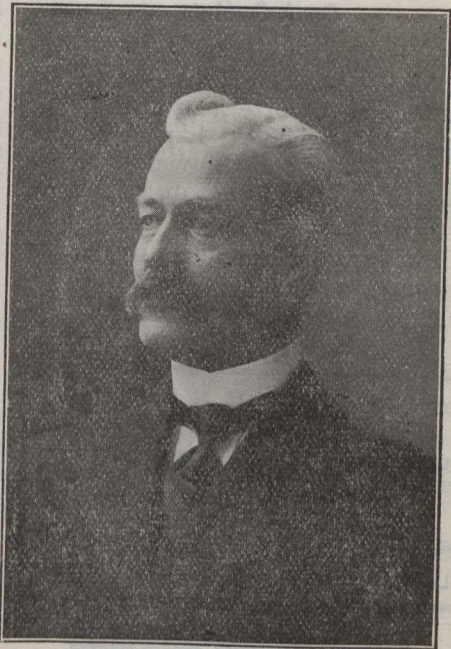
Le nouveau Surintendant est un homme dans toute la vigueur de l'âge, bien qu'il ait déjà à son actif 20 années de service dans les Postes. Il est né aux Trois-Rivières, le 8 décembre 1864, et il demeure à Québec depuis de longues années où il occupe une propriété sur l'Avenue des Erables.

M. Marineau a fait son cours d'études classiques complet au Séminaire de Trois-Rivières. Le 18 octobre 1894, il accepta une position d'Officier de Malles. Son instruction, son esprit observateur, méthodique et cultivé lui firent vite acquérir une expérience précieuse au Service des Postes.

Le nouveau Surintendant, M. J. P. Marineau, a l'estime, la confiance et

l'amour de tous ses subalternes, et avec toutes les qualités intellectuelles qu'il possède, le service des malles par chemins de fer, depuis qu'il est sous son contrôle, est entré dans une ère de progrès et d'avancement.

Le 26 novembre 1914, soit 24 jours après la nomination officielle de M. J. P. Marineau à la Surintendance, les employés de ce Département ont voulu prouver à leur chef toute l'estime qu'ils lui portaient en lui présentant une magnifique montre (18K) et



J. P. MARINEAU,
Superintendent Ry. Mail Service, Quebec.

chaîne (16K) en or avec loquet. Le cadeau a été accompagné d'une adresse, dans laquelle les fonctionnaires de ce Département témoignaient à leur chef toute la joie que leur causait sa nomination, et de plus lui assurant qu'ils feront tout en leur pouvoir pour lui rendre la charge de Surintendant la moins onéreuse, et se, non seulement dans l'intérêt des employés, mais plus encore, pour l'avantage du public et du gouvernement.

De cette entente réciproque, de cette union parfaite entre le Surintendant et ses administrés, il en résultera un état de service allant toujours de progrès en progrès.

M. J. P. Marineau fut un des membres fondateurs de la Fédération des Fonctionnaires Publiques Fédéraux à Québec, en avril 1909, et il a toujours été depuis membre actif et dévoué de cette association.

Ce qu'est le département du Service des Malles par Chemins de fer à Québec.

Le Service des Malles par Chemins de fer est plus important qu'on est généralement porté à le croire. Le transport des malles: 1, par chemins de fer; 2, par voies fluviales; 3, par courriers de terre, sont du ressort du Surintendant.

Il devra voir à ce que le transport de toutes ces malles s'opère avec régularité, ponctualité et sûreté. Sa

surveillance devra s'exercer sur près de 170 employés comprenant: 1, Commis de malles; 2, Officiers de malles anglaises; 3, Agents de transfert et commis de bureau. Les voies ferrées auxquelles il a à voir sont de plus d'une vingtaine, les services maritimes sont au nombre de 18, avec en plus les malles anglaises.

Bref, tout doit marcher rondement, avec célérité et sûrement, sans quoi les plaintes du public seraient nombreuses. De fait, il serait difficile, pour ne pas dire impossible, de concevoir une administration postale satisfaisante sans un service par chemins de fer irréprochable, et c'est au Surintendant qu'il appartient d'y voir, à chaque instant.



ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE OF CANADA.

The next examination for the entry of Naval Cadets will be held at the examination centres of the Civil Service Commission in May, 1915, successful candidates joining the College on or about 1st August. Applications for entry will be received up to 15th April by the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, from whom blank entry forms can now be obtained.

Candidates for the examination in May next must be between the ages of fourteen and sixteen on the 1st July, 1915.

Further details can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.

Department of the Naval Service,
Ottawa, January 8th, 1915.

Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.
—72858.

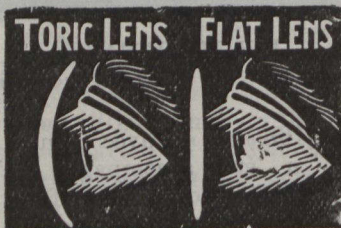
SUCCESSFUL.

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M. X. ARICHAT, Nova Scotia.

Latin, French, German, Spanish by Mail

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ACTO, AMETHYST OR AMBER LENSES

Are the most comfort-giving lenses that can be worn by anyone whose duties require that they work under artificial light. They will also take away the glare from the snow which is so harmful to sensitive eyes. These lenses subdue the light to such a degree that it is pleasant.

THE OTTAWA OPTICAL PARLORS

J. H. DESILBERG - EXCLUSIVE OPTOMETRIST
119 SPARKS STREET 'Phone Queen 2345

THE LATE ARTHUR L. SIMONS.**A Faithful Servant of the King.**

At the funeral of Mr. Arthur L. Simons, of the Customs staff, Vancouver, the pallbearers were Messrs. H. De Graves, L. Mackay and W. Hancock, of the Customs Department, and F. Turner, Robert Forrest and R. Small, of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police Veterans' Association. The deceased's death was really due to the extreme hardships he endured while in the course of his duty as a mounted policeman; he made a trip from Dawson to Fort Macpherson, over a trail that has many tragedies to its discredit. He joined the Customs staff in 1911. There were many floral tributes on the bier. The following verses were contributed by Mr. A. McRae, a confrere of Mr. Simons in the Customs. They were dedicated to the loving memory of Arthur Lovell Simons, R.N.W.M.P. veteran, Yukon division; officer H.M. Customs:—

We knew him, and esteemed him
As only comrades can;
In very truth we deemed him
A brother and a man!

A quiet, modest Briton,
With dauntless British soul,
His name might well be written
On Britain's honor roll.

True son of that nation
Who sends her brave ones forth,
In many a trying station
To prove their sterling worth.

Where e'en the fierce wolf shivers
Lone vigils hath he kept;
And down wild Northland rivers
In frail canoe hath swept.

In Arctic night he bore him
Afar from kith and kin—
The trackless waste before him—
As those who battles win.

Brave doubter, firm believer,
Whole life his faith might tell;
After life's fitful fever
We trust he sleepeth well!

PAUL HUMBERT KILLED.

Paul Humbert, an expert in the Tobacco Division of the Department of Agriculture, fell in action in France on January 8th.

On the day on which he was killed *The Civilian* published a splendid word-picture from his pen, describing the horrors and hardships of the campaign in Eastern France.

M. Humbert was a reservist of the French army and answered the first call to the colours last August. He took his place as Adjutant of the 14th Infantry of the Line, and served bravely in many actions and in the prolonged trench-fighting against the despoilers of his native land.

On January 8th the regiment was engaged at Perthes-les-Hurlus. Called upon to take an opposing German trench, it went forward with its usual gallantry, captured the position and with it a number of prisoners. M. Humbert was uninjured in the charge, but while he was engaged in consolidating his corps in their new-won position, still under fire, a bullet struck him in the forehead. He died instantly.

M. Humbert was but twenty-eight years of age, and had been mentioned for conspicuous bravery in previous battles.

"A brave man among so many brave men, idolized by his men and honoured with the esteem and confidence of his chiefs, he now lies buried between Perthes and Souain, in that corner of France constantly swept by the German fire, and which he had defended for three long months."

A VETERAN COLLECTOR DEAD.

Lieut.-Col. Thomas Scott, former Collector of Customs at Winnipeg, and a former member of Parliament and of the Manitoba Legislature, died on February 10th, aged seventy-four years.

Lieut.-Col. Scott was born at Lanark, Ont., February 16, 1841, and was educated at Perth. In 1863 he married a daughter of Robert Kelloch of Perth, who predeceased him seven years ago. In 1861 he founded the Perth Expositor, which he edited and published until 1873, when he removed to Manitoba.

At the time of the Trent affair in 1861 he entered the volunteer militia, was promoted to a captaincy in 1865, passing the Royal Military School examinations in the same year. He attained his majority in the 42nd Regiment in 1866, and saw active service during the Fenian raid. In 1870 he was appointed to the 1st Ontario Battalion of Rifles, forming a part of the Red River expeditionary force under Col. Wolseley. Returning in 1871, he was in the same year appointed to command the second expedition sent to Manitoba in consequence of a threatened Fenian invasion, and was complimented by the Imperial military authorities on the successful performance of this task. He was gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel in 1871, remaining for some years attached to the Battalion of Rifles at Fort Garry. On the outbreak of the Northwest Rebellion he organized and commanded the 95th Regiment, and retired in 1887, retaining rank.

Lieut.-Col. Scott was mayor of Winnipeg in 1877-78, represented Winnipeg in the local House, 1878-80, and sat in the Commons for Selkirk and later for Winnipeg. He was appointed Collector of Customs in 1887, and retired on superannuation in 1910.

A. NICHOLSON KILLED.

News has been received that Archibald Nicholson, formerly an officer in the Dominion Police in Ottawa, was killed in action in France on January 26th, fighting in the ranks of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Full details of the occurrence have not come to hand.

Nicholson was a fine young Scotsman, who came to Ottawa last year and joined the Dominion Police as constable. His manly worth and likeable disposition quickly won him many friends, and the news of his death was learned with deep regret by all who knew him.

When the war broke out Nicholson enlisted in Ottawa with the Army Medical Corps, but subsequently transferred to the Princess Patricia's Regiment, the officers of which welcomed such a stalwart and soldierly recruit.

The next of kin of the deceased soldier is R. Nicholson, of Kingsburg, Aostrey, Scotland.

WITH THE SECOND CONTINGENT.

(By a Civil Servant.)

The new rifles, Ross Mark 3, have now been served out to us, also Oliver equipment, canteens and waterproof sheets, so that, with the sole exception of water bottles, we are all ready for our departure. The other day a route-march, in full marching order, took place, and the men found the equipment very easy to carry. One blanket is rolled with the waterproof sheet over it, and placed in straps; above it goes the mess-tin, or canteen, in its canvas cover, and above that, in two straps, is the kitbag. The equipment is clipped in front to the belt, and the latter passes through some portions of the blanket strap behind, holding the lot close to the body.

Now that the winter is here in full swing, nothing very much can be done, except lectures in the armories by the Instructor of Musketry, and a short march in the morning and afternoon. Outpost work is being well studied, as it is of great importance on active service. Just before the snow really came on there was an

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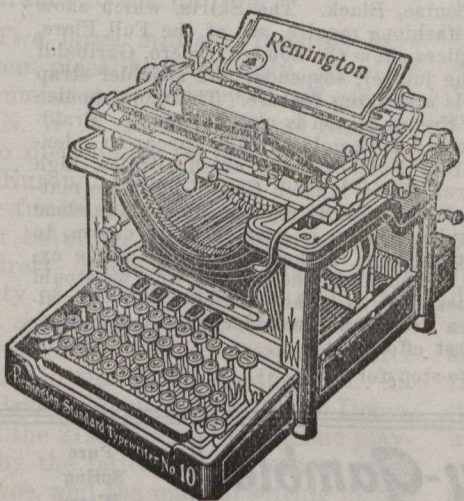
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eighteen-mile route march, which showed how fit the men really were, there being just the usual few cases of sore feet the morning after. One thing that is being well gone into is the machine gun drill; the section has been greatly increased, as it is hoped to have more than the one machine gun with the battalion, and additional officers have been detailed to take instruction in that drill. We have at present one Colt gun, this being considered to be superior to the Maxim, formerly the best of its kind. The work is both hard and strenuous, and the young officer in charge—Lieut. R. W. White—has much to his credit for the present efficient state of his section.

We have got a new issue of boots, and these seem to be very satisfactory; some of them are the Slater "Invictus" boot, which is well known to be good for hard wear. Also have we got new cap-badges, to distinguish us from other of the Overseas battalions; they are in the form of a maple leaf, surmounted by a crown, with the inscription "21 Canada" in large relief. They certainly set off the caps and give (if possible) a smarter appearance to the uniform.

Two large military funerals have taken place here recently, those of Commissioner Zachary Wood, of the R. N. W. M. P., and Colonel Strange, who died under such sad conditions in Europe. These were most imposing functions. At each of them the 21st battalion was represented in its entirety, besides furnishing a firing party of 300 rank and file to fire the last salute to the remains of the deceased officer. There were also three bands in the corteges,—the R. C. H. A. Brass, and the 21st battalion Drum, and the 21st Pipers. The music played by the latter was, indeed, a dirge of woe, and the martial setting of the obsequies made one think of what (on a much smaller scale) might be our fate during this young year of 1915. More probably it will be just

plain six feet of Mother Earth, with no funeral pomp, as has already been the case with many of the Empire's bravest and best. Well, we all face it with a glad heart, knowing of the justice of our cause. To paraphrase—"The blood of her sons is the seed of the Empire."

All things look like a "get-away" during this month. Some time, when we little expect it, will come the word to send us to the Motherland, there to perfect ourselves in our knowledge of the business of war, to make ready to do our part for God and the Empire. You may notice that I do not say for Canada specifically, for to me that is all comprehended in the one word "Empire;" it is as an empire that we are fighting, not as scattered forces, but as one. Well is it for ardent love of this our country to be deeply implanted in our hearts, but we, the British nation, are fighting this war; we, that part of Britain beyond the seas, are making common cause with our own against the enemy of all of our flesh and blood, and it is in that spirit that we talk of "our men" and "our victories," meaning those of that great family of which we are proud to be an important part. Not that we minimize Canadian prowess and patriotism, but that we sink, for the time being, our Canadianism in our British citizenship,—"Cives Britannici sumus."

Officers' examinations for the ranks of lieutenant and captain are now over, and Lts. Frank McGee and Douglas Stewart passed, both with flying colours. The life of an officer is not all the proverbial "beer and skittles;" it needs constant application to detail to be a good officer, and it is no easy thing for a young man who has been earning his livelihood at civil posts to carry off his uniform and to perform his military duties just as if he had never done anything else. Let us give all credit to our young officers, who do their best, and that a very good one, in view of the

short time that we have been training here. Like the men, they have developed well, and will not be backward in leading their men to the forefront of the battle, like their brother-officers now in the firing line.

The other day was the occasion of the "silver" wedding of Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Hughes. The officers of the battalion gave a reception, at which was all the beauty and fashion of Kingston, and presented to the Colonel and Mrs. Hughes a handsome silver salver, as a token of esteem on the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. After afternoon tea the battalion displayed, for the edification of the numerous guests, their Pipe and Bugle Bands, and the signal section also did stunts, followed by a physical drill exhibition by a squad of picked men under the Sergt.-Major. I understand that the visitors were agreeably surprised by this entertainment, and much pleased with the appearance of the men and their evolutions generally.

I find that, through inadvertence, I forgot to mention how pleased the Ottawa members of the battalion were to find that each of them had been remembered at Christmas time by the Canadian Women's Club of Ottawa, and that the good ladies had sent to them a welcome parcel of most useful clothing to protect them against the severe exposure consequent on warfare. The Christmas cards were a happy thought. May the donors have a suitable reward for their kindness, since words are inadequate.

Pat and Mike were obliged to halt their heavily loaded cart to make way for a funeral. Gazing at the procession, Pat suddenly remarked:

"Mike, I wish I knew where I was goin' to die. I'd give five hundred dollars to know the place where I'm going to die."

"Well, Pat, what good would it do if you knew?"

"Lots," said Pat. "Shure, I'd niver go near that place."

Personals.

General.

President Genge of the Kingston Postal Clerks' Association represented that body at a very successful dinner given by the local branch of the Federation of Letter Carriers. W. F. Nickle, M.P., heard appreciations of his efforts on behalf of the Carriers.

William Ackland, father of Messrs. Harry, John and Ernest Ackland of the Civil Service, was found dead in bed at his home in Ottawa on February 3rd. Deceased was 77 years of age, and a veteran pensioner of the Royal Artillery. He is survived by his widow, seven sons and two daughters.

Ellen L. Jury, wife of C. C. MacNeill of the Department of Customs, died on February 8th, aged 64 years. She was a native of Prince Edward Island, but had lived in Ottawa for fourteen years. She leaves also a son and a daughter.

Miss Wright, formerly Secretary to Trade Commissioner Just, in Germany, is now attached to the headquarters of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Miss Wright was "interned" for a time before she was permitted to leave the continent for England.

R. A. Lewis, of the Department of Trade and Commerce, is confined to his home by illness.

William Wilfred Campbell, of the Public Archives, and of the Ottawa Home Guard, widely known as a poet and man of letters, has been delivering stirring patriotic addresses before Canadian clubs in Hamilton, Welland and other Ontario places. Dr. Campbell urges Canadians to "wake up" and calls upon the young men to enlist. A press despatch says that in his Hamilton speech he denounced Bernard Shaw as a traitor.

Obituary.

Mr. W. L. Fagan, father of J. E. Fagan, Vice-President of the C. S. Federation, died at Vancouver on January 28th. The late Mr. Fagan was a civil servant in the employ of the British Columbia Government. Four children survive. They are Mrs. J. M. McGovern, wife of the Dominion Immigration Inspector of Port Arthur; Miss Anna Fagan, of Vancouver; Mr. J. E. Fagan, Chief Landing Waiter in the local Customs, and Mr. J. L. Fagan, a broker.



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