

PAGES

MISSING

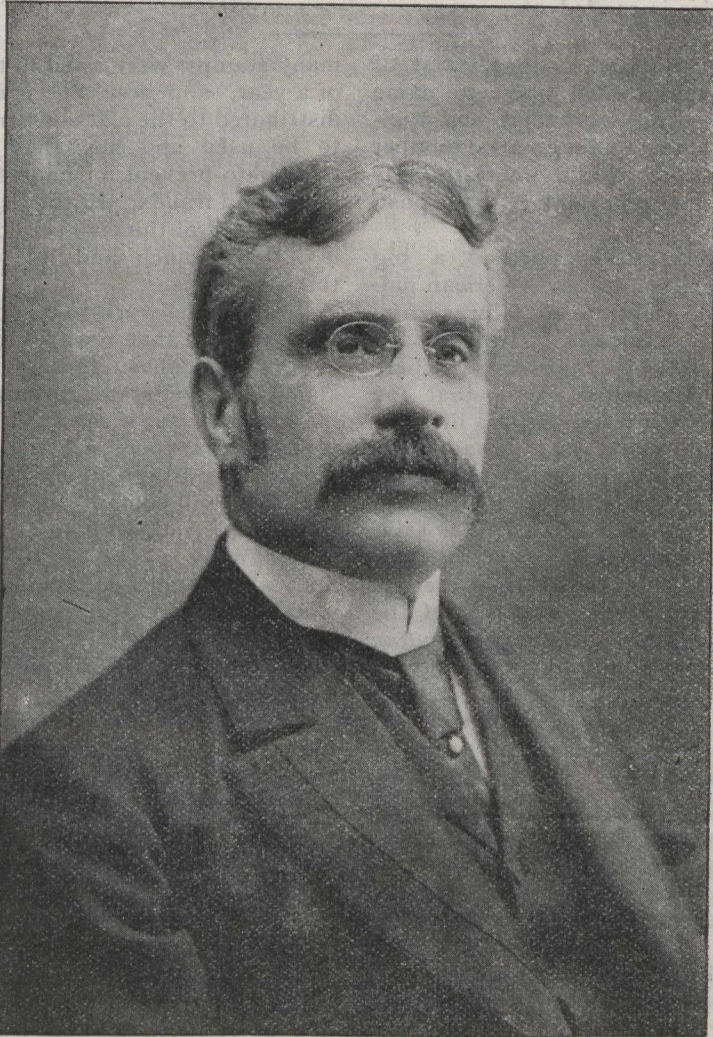
THE CIVILIAN

VOL. IV.

OCTOBER 6, 1911

No. 12

The Prime Minister.



The Hon. Robert Laird Borden.

Postage Stamps.

The Work of Civil Servants in Distributing and Accounting.—A Fine Organization.

The bulky departmental reports, or even the special inquiries made by Parliament into individual transactions, show only the results of what is done by the several branches of the public service in the Dominion. Best of the actual working of those branches little is known. Should the idea be favorably received, *The Civilian* proposes to publish a series of articles, of which this is the first, in which the attempt will be made to show just how the work of the Civil Service is carried on.

If the Average Man—that wisest of persons—were called upon to name that object which embodies and typifies Government to the greatest number of people, he would unhesitatingly answer—don't you think?—“A postage stamp.”

There has lately appeared a big volume, written by an American philatelist, Mr. Clifton A. Howes, and entitled:—“Canada: Its Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery.” There is more information in it that the ordinary citizen could use in a lifetime. One would think that if anything further were to be written upon the subject, it would only be a series of “dittoes” to what Mr. Howes has said, or certain appendices to keep the facts up to date. And yet—such is the size of the subject or the perversity of the journalistic mind—when *The Civilian* wishes to turn out an article on the subject of postage stamps, it finds itself in a field hitherto untrodden. Not of the first issue of adhesive stamps for postage—A. D. 1851—do we wish to speak; not of the changes made necessary by the enthronement of successive Sovereigns; not of the denominations of Jubilee stamps, or the different colors of sea in successive printings of those in celebration of the “Vaster Empire than has been”; not of the beauty of the Tercentenary issues or the imprints upon those of noble Edward's reign,—not of such things, the delight of the philatelic soul is a word to be said here. But it must have occurred to any but the most incurious mind to wonder how

many stamps were used in the course of a year, and how the stamps were distributed to the places where they are to be used and how they were kept track of to prevent misunderstandings, losses and frauds. All this is the work of a branch of the civil service, and it is of that branch and its work that this story tells.

First, of the work to be done. With a department that receives practically all its revenues through postage stamps and yet states its surplus alone in seven figures, it can readily be understood that there are a considerable number of postage stamps to be handled. We shall come to the statistics in a moment. And, with eight millions of people more prone to letter-writing than almost any equal number in the world and scattered over half a continent, some of them in sections where the stamps pay for carriage by pack train, canoe or dog sled, it takes no great imaginative power to understand that the work of sending every kind of stamp that may be called for to every point where it may be needed, and of keeping track of all the transactions of the thousands of widely scattered people through whom sales must be carried on, is no small matter.

Including post cards, stamped envelopes and all other forms, the stamps issued for sale by the department for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1909, the latest report issued, numbered 584,264,774.

This was an increase over the year before of more than 54,000,000. The steady development of Canada is no-

where more clearly reflected than in the increase of postage stamps issued. The impatient reader and the careful reader will alike be glad to have the figures tabulated; the former can skip the whole thing and the latter can take in the facts more readily:—

TABLE SHOWING INCREASE OF STAMPS ISSUED
IN TEN YEARS.

1900.....	236,335,462
1901.....	244,616,040
1902.....	263,473,179
1903.....	291,166,179
1904.....	306,382,154
1905.....	336,587,614
1906.....	387,908,230
1907 (9 months)....	329,189,095
1908.....	481,223,267
1909.....	584,264,774

According to this latest report, there were 12,887 post offices in operation, an increase of 408 over the previous year, which, in turn, had shown an increase of 605 over the year before. There are also about 3000 stamp vendors, of whom a special word is said later. The size of the transactions may be even better understood if translated into terms of money. The total transactions in postage stamps, post cards, &c., for the last year covered by the table amounted to no less than \$9,912,435 90, so we are safe in saying that the Postage Stamp Branch today is handling stamps to the value of not less than ten millions of dollars a year. A business of quite respectable size.

It will be seen at a glance that this work is not a work merely of handling so much paper or so many packages of printed supplies.

In the first place, these are not mere forms for the use of the Department; they are little vouchers used by the public to prove payment for the service the post office renders, and it makes no difference what stamps the public may want or when or where they want them, if there is anything like a failure of prompt and sufficient supply, the Branch is pretty sure to hear of it, for there is no service of the government to which the people feel they are quite so fully entitled as to that of the post office, and stamps are supposed to be available at any post office whenever the public may see fit to call for them.

In a small and completely settled country, this work of supply and distribution would present difficulties enough, but in a half continent, most of which is only now being brought to the use of postage stamps, and with the work of the service being extended in rapidly growing cities, and even more extended in the newly-opened West and North, the difficulties are increased a hundred fold. With new post offices opening at the rate of about two a day, and many old post offices being changed or closed, there are complexities of work calling for the use of administrative ability of a high order which can only be dimly understood even by the liveliest imagination.

In the second place, these stamps are money—for purposes of accounting they are nothing less. Every stamp is worth its face and can be used by anybody, and a few stamps at a time can even be turned into cash with little or no difficulty. Therefore, even down to the undersized and insignificant half-cent stamp, every one of these little bits of paper must be traced to its final destination, either in the hands of a customer or in the furnace in which unused stamps are consumed. If there were a leak through which a single stamp could escape, there would be no protection either for the public or for the officers of the Branch. These things need to be borne in mind when this work is considered, for otherwise the value of the service rendered by the Branch cannot be understood.

The sixty years of experience which the Branch has had in its work has developed a system which is practically perfect and which operates like clock work—or rather like chronometer work, for the variations of conditions are allowed for and the demands of the public are met with practically unflinching precision.

Under the system as it stands, the Postage Stamp Branch deals directly only with what are called "accounting" post offices. The smaller offices receive their supplies each from its own most

convenient city accounting office. The postmaster in every case is assumed to know best what his public will require, and so the whole business is carried on under a system of requisitions. The small offices send to the larger ones, and the larger ones to the Postage Stamp Branch, stating what stamps are required. Errors in estimate are thus reduced to a minimum, and few stamps are left as "dead stock" anywhere.

But the filling of requisitions is by no means a merely mechanical or routine matter. At this point, the Postage Stamp Branch affords a peculiar but very efficient check to prevent losses to the revenue. To postmasters everywhere must be left the matter of deciding what rates shall be charged for the mail matter presented to them for carriage. But if a postmaster is rating wrongly any particular class of matter, that fact is very likely to show in some peculiarity of his requisitions for stamps. In case of any such peculiarity—an abnormal call for one-cent stamps, for instance, as against an unusually small demand for twos—the Branch institutes inquiry. Should it be shown that there is mis-rating in the office in question, a word of advice to the postmaster corrects the error. Just how much is saved to the revenue in this way it is impossible to say, but it can easily be seen that the Branch is a constant check to the multiplication and enlargement of leaks.

But the great work of the Branch in protecting the revenue is in the system of licenses and permits for stamp vendors. A license is granted to one in a position to do a comparatively large business, and the licensee is allowed a commission of one per cent., to be deducted at the time of sale. The permits are for small dealers, people whose transactions are not large enough to justify the expense of book-keeping. These people are not allowed a commission. The selling of stamps is made a privilege on concessions, which dealers of various kinds seek as affording them a means of accommodating customers and thus attracting trade. But

the effect, as will easily be seen, is to keep the sale of stamps within restricted lines. This is a protection to the revenue the value of which cannot be over-estimated. A man may be able to exchange five two-cent stamps with a friend for ten cents. But when a man offers stamps in any considerable quantity, and especially if he offers them at a large discount—as one who has come by them dishonestly is very likely to do—suspicion is at once aroused and a word to the authorities results unpleasantly for the would-be stamp vendor.

Country post offices have been at times favorite places of plunder for burglars and hold-up men. But these people understand so well the danger of trying to make money illegally in the stamp business that they rarely take stamps in quantity. In a number of cases dollars and dollars' worth of stamps have been found at the roadside after a burglary, the thief having taken the cash but being unwilling to run the risk of carrying the stamps about with them.

The stamps are supplied to the Department by contract. (This contract work of manufacture is outside the Civil Service, but many interesting things could be said about it. There is no article anywhere that is the product of more careful or more skilful work than a Canadian postage stamp. To so temper and apply the gum of a stamp, for instance, that the stamp can be used in the warm and humid summer of Pelee Island or in the winter of the dry belt of Alberta and be as useable within a week as within a year,—this is a problem in practical chemistry that calls for some nicety of combinations. But this whole question of manufacture is another story, and we must take the stamps as they come to the Branch.) The supplies come in from two to four times a week according to conditions. The Stamp Branch has its busy seasons. The busiest, of course, is just before Christmas. There is another rush when preparations are making for moving the crop and merchants are sending out their fall cata-

logues. The stamps are counted by sheets, an elaborate system of checks being used to make sure of avoiding mistakes. In course of counting, watch is kept for imperfections of manufacture. But, as the manufacturers themselves check every detail not only in process but in the finished stamps, complaint of imperfection is almost unknown. Duly counted, checked and certified, the stamps are placed in a great vault, one in which all the safeguards used in the largest bank vaults are carefully provided. From this stock, stamps are taken, to be sent out in response to the requisitions received. There must be no mistake in the contents of any package, and so another count and another check must be used. The packing must be carefully done, for the contents are easily damaged, and damage means not merely the loss of printed matter of the most expensive kind, but a still further and more elaborate count and audit for no purpose except to get properly rid of damaged and utterly useless material.

Not all stamps are used, of course. In the hands of the thousands of postmasters and dealers who keep them to meet the public demand, all sorts of accidents happen. Many are kept awaiting customers who never come, and get shopworn and unfit for use. There are fires to destroy or partly destroy them, unintentional tearings to mutilate them, and other accidents without number. Also, there are perfectly good stamps to be taken back and properly allowed for. A post office is closed, or some change is made which means making a new start. Every stamp for which the office claims credit must be sent back to the Branch, there to be duly taken into account. Sheets of stamps in good condition are taken back into stock, to be sent out again in the course of business. But those detached or shopworn or otherwise not to be handled are made the subject of a special cremation ceremony. Under arrangement, an officer of the Auditor General's Office appears at the Branch to see and to count. Then this officer accompanies an officer of

the Branch to the furnace room, where the stamps that are no more to be used are committed to the flames. A certificate is then given showing that the revenue has been duly protected by this work of destruction.

The Postage Stamp Branch has its offices at the Post Office headquarters in the Langevin Block. Its service commands the labor of fifteen people. These are graded under the law as follows: 1 Superintendent, grade 1A; 1 clerk, grade 2A; 5 clerks, grade 2B; 3 clerks, grade 3A; 4 clerks, grade 3B; 3 packers.

This does not completely represent the organization, for this Branch, like every other position of the post office service, has its share in the work of inspectors. These inspectors, each of whom has a special district, and whose districts as a whole cover every post office no matter how small, no matter how out-of-the-way, are the eyes, ears, and in part the hands and voice of the Department. Their work in connection with the Postage Stamp Branch is varied and invaluable. In this as in all details of the service they carry out the general policy of the Department in a way that makes the whole service one united smooth-working system.

That so few officers are able to carry on efficiently this wide-spread and exacting work of supplying and keeping count of the postage stamps for the whole Dominion is due to long experience and perfect system. As a whole, the officers of this branch go in as juniors and spend their lives in the work. Occasionally one is taken in from some other branch, or even from outside, but experience has proven that to make the machinery work perfectly it is better to have it in the hands only of those who have been accustomed to it from the very beginning of their working lives.

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 position and space, and will be furnished upon application.

Subscriptions, MSS intended for publication, and all other communications should be addressed to

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, Oct. 6, 1911

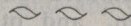
AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

Governments may come and governments may go, but the Civil Service goes on for ever. This arrangement is not for the sake of the Civil Service, or even of the new government, and no felicitations are in order on this account at the present moment for either. It is for the sake of the people, whose interests in administration are above party.

Both by law and usage, civil servants are required to abstain from active participation in political warfare. If there are any who have dipped their hands in irregularities of late, and are now to be held accountable, *The Civilian* for one does not feel called upon for the sympathetic tear. We could wish that the proper point of view might be taken by the government in such cases, which is that the offence is one not against party but against good government and against the morale of the civil service. Certainly the point of view of the civil service body is one of resentment against such offences. The

plain truth is that the civil servant who becomes a political partisan is not playing the game with his fellow employees. Nine times out of ten his partizanship is not conscientious zeal for a political principle, but a mean wish to "stand in" and make capital for subsequent improper use. The politician may have a grievance against such an official, but the grievance of his fellow civil servants is greater.

There is an opportunity for a step forward at the present moment both in the outside and inside service, (but particularly in the former) to which the attention of the government may be pointed. In many constituencies there are a number of positions, mostly of a minor character, where dismissals may follow a change in administration. Policy has not been uniform in the past with regard to these positions. In some constituencies wholesale decapitations followed the last change. In others few or no dismissals occurred. This is as illogical as it is inhumane. It would seem to be in the spirit of the time if the rule were made uniform henceforward that here as elsewhere in the service tenure of employment should be stable except for cause and that among causes for dismissal should not be reckoned the political party of the minister who made the original appointment.



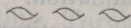
A CIVIL SERVICE M.P.

The late elections, (of which rumours have reached the most retiring and correct of officials) may recall the fact that in England Civil Servants have for some time past been seriously discussing direct representation for the service in Parliament "The Civil Servants", says the C. S. Gazette, "do not desire to form a Civil Service Parliamentary Party, nor do they desire to bind down their member or members in the same way as the members of Labour Party are bound. They simply want someone in the House to protect their interests, and to voice their opinions on Service

matters, and they do not mind what line he takes on ordinary political questions."

The argument of the *Gazette* is concluded with the following by way of "practical" suggestion :

"The first step must be the formation of a Parliamentary Representation Committee, and this Committee must circularise the Civil Servants with a view to the establishment of a Parliamentary Guarantee Fund, which, as we have explained in previous articles, should amount to at least £15,000. This sum, when invested, would provide the Civil Service M. P. with an income of about £500 a year, which should be sufficient to provide him with many of the comforts and perhaps some of the luxuries of life. The re-election expenses, and the money required for nursing a constituency, could be obtained by making a small levy on all the subscribing members of the Parliamentary Guarantee Fund. There are, we know, many Civil Servants whose thoughts turn towards the House of Commons, and the Parliamentary Representation Committee would not, we should say, have much difficulty in persuading one of these to retire from the Service for the purpose of representing his colleagues in the Mother of Parliaments. If the male members of the Committee failed, it would be quite safe to leave the matter in the hands of the ladies."



DOMINION EMPLOYEES IN EUROPE.

Civil servants who are employed by the government of Great Britain and in foreign countries are none the less civil servants and entitled to like treatment with other employees of Canada. Yet they are discriminated against quite arbitrarily in more than one particular.

In the first place they are denied access to the government annuities scheme. Not only does the government fail to grant them superannuation, but the privilege extended to

every other citizen of superannuating himself in this way is withheld.

Secondly, they are burdened equally with the rest of us by the enhanced cost of living, yet their claims in this respect are being more tardily recognized than in the case of any other class. Just what this burden amounts to some recent figures from London, Eng., may serve to show. Statistics of this kind at a moment of fiscal controversy like the present may be of general interest. They are of special significance to Canadian civil servants, because we have quoted them from the price lists of the Civil Service Cooperative Society, so that they indicate precisely what our British cousins pay for daily necessaries.

What the housewife's average weekly bills were in 1896 and what they are today for the same quantity of goods may be summarised as follows, the figures being based on the price lists of the Civil Service Supply Association for the years 1896 and 1911, and the quantities being calculated for a household of six adults and two or three children:

THE GROCER'S BILL,

	1896		1911	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1 lb. Househo'd tea.....	1	3	1	6
1 lb. Breakfast cocoa....	1	2	1	4
14 lbs. Flour.....	1	8	2	0
4 lbs. Loaf sugar.....	0	9	0	10
4 lbs. Demarara.....	0	8	0	9
3 lbs. Tapioca.....	0	6	0	8½
3 lbs. Bacon (sides).....	2	1½	2	6
3 lbs. Butter (Irish).....	3	3	3	10½
2 lbs. Cheese (Cheddar) ..	1	4	1	8
1 lb. Lard.....	0	6	0	7½
3 doz. Cooking eggs.....	2	4	3	6
3 doz. New laid eggs.....	3	0	5	4½
2 lbs. Jam.....	0	9	0	10
1 lb. Plain biscuits.....	0	4½	0	5½
	19	8	£1	5 11½

THE GREENGROCER'S BILL.

	1896		1911	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
2 lbs. of Apples (cooking)..	0	2	0	6
4 doz. Bananas.....	4	0	5	0
1 doz. Lemons.....	0	9	1	4
1 lb. Nuts.....	0	4	0	9
1 doz. Cabbages.....	1	3	3	0
14 lbs. Potatoes.....	0	9	1	0
1 lb. Spinach.....	0	2	0	4

3 lbs. Onions.....	o 2½	o 4½
4 Cauliflowers	o 8	o 2 0
	8 3½	14 3½

Further examination of the price lists of 1896 and of today presents the facts in an equally striking form:

	1896		1906	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Tea (Kaisow and Indian)				
per lb	2	0	2	2
Flour	o	10	1	0
Oatmeal	o	10	1	0
Salad Oil	7	6	13	0
Sugar (loaf).....	2	7	2	9
Tapioca.....	o	2	o	2½
Vinegar	1	7	1	8
Butter (Irish).....	1	1	1	3½
Cheese (Cheddar)...	o	8	o	10
Ham (York).....	o	11	1	o½
Eggs (Cooking).....	o	10	1	2
Jams.....	o	4½	o	5
Apples (Cooking).....	5	6	8	0
Bananas.....	1	0	1	3
Nuts (Brazil).....	o	4	o	9
Lettuces.....	o	2 3d	&	2½d
Onions.....	o	o½	o	1½
Potatoes.....	o	o½	o	1

meeting 111 delegates were present, through which every department and every class in the Association was present—all being about evenly represented. It would be interesting to know just what department and what class would show the greatest practical interest in the work of the Association if the matter of representation were allowed to adjust itself.

There are those who are inclined to condemn the present annual meeting. It should be perfectly easy to arrive at some more or less definite conclusion as to how it would compare with the larger scheme, before committing the Association to any drastic change.

OTTAWA C. S. ASSOCIATION.

The Ottawa Civil Service Executive held a well attended meeting on Friday evening, September 29th. With the close of the holiday season nearly all the members of the executive have now returned to the city. A full discussion of current business before the Association took place, reports being received from nearly all the standing committees, including those on sanitation, co-operation, editorial, promotion and superannuation.

Copies of the constitution may now be had on application to the Secretary. In view of the near approach of the annual meeting careful scrutiny of the constitution by members is requested.

With regard to the propaganda of the Association, a resolution was passed requesting the President to select a small committee for the purpose of taking up informally with the new city members of Parliament the several matters in which the association is chiefly interested, more particularly the question of third division examinations and superannuation.

A SUGGESTION.

Over a year ago *The Civilian's* suggested, or rather endorsed, the Ottawa Executive's suggestion, that the annual meeting of the Association should be made open to the entire membership. The judgment of the advisory boards at the time, however, was against the proposal, and the *status quo* remains. The main argument of the members opposed to the change was that the present system insures a thoroughly representative gathering, which though limited in size is "hand-picked" as to quality.

The Civilian sees a way whereby a practical test of the feasibility of the open membership meeting may be made. Let a meeting or two of the membership for the purposes of general discussion of the Association's business be held during the coming year. Let a careful analysis of those attending such meetings be made and the results compared with that of the recent general meeting of the advisory boards. At that

For the Railway Mail Clerks.

Early in the year, while the increases of salary to railway mail clerks were under discussion in the House, a member spoke of the great amount of time that the mail clerks had off duty. He surely spoke without reflection, for, considering eight hours per day, or forty-eight hours per week, as the working hours of civil servants, it will be found, on careful examination, that the average railway mail clerk, making allowance for home study, delays and accidents to mail trains, and snow blockades in the winter, works longer hours than his brother employees, and always under difficulties and dangers.

Take the Toronto, St. Mary's and London run, which starts at London at 6 a.m. and returns to London at 11.25 p.m., which makes, running three days per week, 17½ hours for each day, or 52½ for the week. Add to this study at home (a mighty hard labor for many) and delays to trains, and it will be seen that the working hours of railway mail clerks, or hours on duty of all kinds, are many. There are many such runs, including Toronto, Hamilton and London, Bridgeburg and Goderich and others; and it must not be forgotten that railway mail clerks are often working in their cars for long periods before their trains start, for which the train schedule gives no credit—indeed the fact is known to only very few. The railway mail clerk is so secluded from the public that very few know his hours of work, which are spread over the whole twenty-four hours in many inconvenient periods for rest or meals.

It must be said that the majority

of the members seemed to fully understand that no Canadian civil servants led more irregular, exacting or dangerous lives than the mail clerks.

* * *

An authority made the statement in the House that the senior railway mail clerks obtained the choice of runs on which the highest mileage was paid. This is true, but yet it is somewhat misleading. How? In this way: While the senior clerks are young and vigorous, they strive to earn as much mileage as possible to help their salaries, but it is a positive fact that many years do not elapse ere these clerks, feeling the stress of work and the jar of the train on their anatomies, are glad to change from long runs to short ones, or from running four days a week to three days, being quite content to earn less mileage for the physical benefits which they gain by the change. I know many apparently strong men who have positively been glad to make the change. So, if a clerk has spent 20, 25 or 30 years in the service, 60% or 70% of the time on long runs, and 30% or 40% of the time on shorter or easier runs, it will be found, on examination, that his average mileage for all the years he spent in the service will be lower than is thought. The Bridgeburg to Goderich run earns about \$280 per ann. mileage, and I am glad to be physically able to stand this long run, for I find the money useful; but I know men not much older (if any) than myself, whose mileage is only \$198, \$194, \$145, \$270, \$183, \$178, and so on; but they are quite willing to lose the large mileage and gain more physical comfort. The

average mileage in London district is about \$230, but the older clerks, for the reasons stated, are content to draw less. The average salary and mileage for all the railway mail clerks in London district for the year ended March 31, 1910, was about \$1,052 each. As will be readily seen from these deductions, the oldest clerks do not always have the largest gross income.

* * *

I quite agree with *The Civilian's* strong strictures regarding the acts of unconscientious civil servants who have, by their greediness, caused the Government to restrict sick leave. As has been truly stated, employees who (for various reasons) did not take their legal holidays annually, and who would thus save, a little every year, the cost of relieving them, for which self-denial they received positively nothing, may find themselves in distress if overtaken by a long sickness which would cause the stoppage of their pay. I would venture to suggest to the Government that an account be kept of the amount of leave taken by the different employees, and that credit in some form be given (if necessary) to those who have not taken the full amount of annual leave allowed them. This would be simple justice. If an employee with 15, 20 or 25 years' service to his credit, who was allowed three weeks annual leave, only took, on an average, two weeks, he would surely deserve generous treatment. Let us hope the sad case you referred to will receive the kindly consideration it would seem to deserve.

* * *

The Pintsch gas used in the B. and G. mail cars is vastly more satisfactory as an illuminant than the oil formerly used; but, in case of accident, it is terribly dangerous, as witness the incredible swiftness with which the B. and G. mail train that was wrecked on Feb. 5 was set on fire and burned up. An eye witness said that the flame from the escap-

ing gas ran from one end of the train to the other like a flash of lightning. In this age of electricity it should be a simple matter for trains to be lit by that bright, clear and safe power. The Wabash trains use electricity in their engine headlights. It is a grand thing to see a mighty, broad ray of light illuminating the track for a mile ahead of the train. What a comfort to the engineer and train crew! What an element of safety this ray provides for traffic at crossings! There is no danger of explosion or of train being set on fire and people burned up, with electricity. Perhaps this is a matter that the Railway Commission, which is proving itself so useful to the country, might investigate? G. O'C.

HOW REFORMS GROW.

Scribner's for October has some hitherto unpublished letters by Gen. Grant. They were written between 1877 and 1885 to his old friend, Gen. E. F. Beale, and, while they contain little of public importance, they serve to light up for us again Grant's simple and un-sophisticated nature. Writing from abroad in September, 1877, the General touched for a moment upon political affairs. One passage is striking both in itself and for what it suggests:

The progress of civil service reform—a very flexible reform, or humbug, that justifies whatever a few dissatisfied politicians want—comes by instalments. There are two humbugs which Mr. Hayes will find out—for I believe he is an honest, sincere man, and patriot—one is civil service reform, the other reformers. This is my judgment. Let us see.

In that language we certainly get the blunt quality of Grant, with his contempt for ideas which he did not understand or did not like. As will be remembered, he had been led to make a few experiments toward a reform of the civil service, but they had not turned out well, or interested politicians had assured him that they had



A. E. REA & CO.,
OTTAWA, Ltd.



REA'S MARKET.

Rea's Special Tea.

To those who are fond of a full flavored, full bodied Tea of excellent bouquet, there is nothing we handle that we can with more confidence recommend that our exquisite special Tea imported from India. Monday we place it on sale at per lb. 40c or 3 lbs

for **\$1.10**

- 50c Pure Java and Mocha Coffee, 30c lb. or 3 lbs for **1 15**
- 20 lbs Best Granulated Sugar ... **1.30**
- Choice Dairy Butter, per lb. **26c**
- 60c Proof Vinegar, todays price per gal. **39c**
- Reas Cooked Ham, sliced, put up in 1 lb. cartoons per lb. **28c**
- 2 Bottles Celestines Vichy Water **50c**
- 3 Bags Salt, Windsor Brand **15c**
- Fresh Eggs, laid today, per doz. **30c**
- 3 lbs. Mixed Biscuits. **25c**
- 3 lb. tin pail Soda Biscuits, fresh and crisp. **30c**
- Pure Maple Syrup, quart tins **35c**
- 7 lb. pails Strawberry, Raspberry, or Plum Jam. . **65c**
- 12 lbs. Reas Pastry Flour. **43c**
- 20c bottles Tomato Catsup. **18c**
- Fancy Mixed Biscuits worth 20c lb. on sale today per lb. **17c**
- Fancy Imported French Peas, per tin **15c**
- Large bottles Mixed Pickles, Onions or Chow ... **25c**
- Parisian Essence per bottle **25c**
- 3 lb tins Pure Lard **45c**
- Breskfast Bacon, 2 to 3 lb. strips per lb **20c**
- Windsor Bacon, per lb. **22c**
- Roll Bacon, by the roll or half roll per lb. **14c**

Celery, Lettuce, Parsley, Raddishes, Citrons, Cauliflowers, etc.
at lowest Market Prices.

A. E. REA & CO., Ottawa, Limited

"MADE IN OTTAWA"
STOVES & RANGES

Sold Direct from "Factory to You"

On the Convenient Lease System

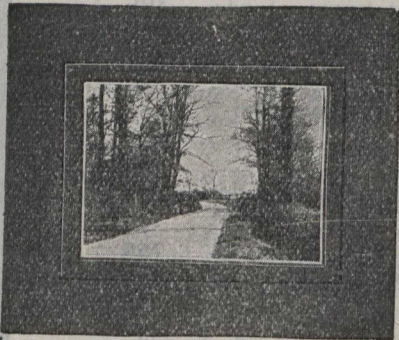
OR AT CLOSE CASH PRICE

Better values in either case are not obtained, while the practise of giving a preference to "OTTAWA MADE", (quality being equal) is commendable and also profitable in case of accident or wear.

Please See Our Lines Before Buying

The National Manufacturing Company, Ltd.
363 Bank St.

Amateur Photographers!



TRY US FOR

Camera Supplies

AND

Finishing

Only Experts Employed.

Photography Limited

Jarvis Studio ✓ *281 Bank Street*

Pittaway Studio ✓ *58 Sparks Street*

Please Patronize Our Advertisers.

not, so that he took a disgust with the whole subject. Possibly it was an old irritation revived in his mind that made him write of the matter to Gen. Beale as he did. Nor would it be wronging Grant to say of him that he never fairly grasped the waste and barbarity of the unchecked spoils system, or got a clear notion of what the reformers were driving at and what their cause stood for. Perhaps it was too early for any President fully to enter into the spirit of the agitation; at any rate, Grant was not the man to do it. His letter, however, gives not only his opinion, but his prediction, and the latter was ludicrously wide of the mark—he himself lived to “see” how wide.

A good measure of the great change which seven years were to bring is furnished in this same number of *Scribner's*. The historian, Mr. Ford Rhodes, is the author of an article on President Cleveland's Administrations. It is the first of two which he is to write, and this one is very largely devoted to Mr. Cleveland's relations to civil service reform, and the achievements for which it is indebted to him. It is not necessary to go over the whole story. The President had a firm belief in the reform principle, and at once did much for it; but he felt the limitations imposed by party; he was sometimes querulous and even angry with “the self-constituted guardians” of the reform, as he called them; and had his backslidings as well as his steps forward. At the end, however, he had made a signal advance, as Mr. Rhodes shows by the official evidence. By the time Cleveland left the White House, he had more than doubled the number of offices in the classified list—the total reached 87,000 at the end of his second term—and he was able to say in his last annual message that, except for the fourth-class postmasters, “it may be said that practically all positions contemplated by the civil service law are now classified.” So much for what was to Gen. Grant, twenty years before, only “humbug”!

We have referred to the convenient showing within the covers of a single

magazine of the way in which reform makes head against skepticism and hostility, not only because the matter has interest in itself, but because it illustrates the method by which all good causes in the world “get forrad”. The new ideas at first beat upon the minds of public men in vain. They are thrown back like rubber balls from a stone wall. We say customarily that the time was not ripe, but we mean that men's consciences were not sensitive nor their intellects open. Lincoln was what we should now call a spoils President, mainly because the very conception of any other political method had not risen above his horizon. We can see now that Grant, though some reformers urged his election on the ground that a plain and honest man like him, who was also a rigid disciplinarian, would cast aside the rubbishy spoilsmen, was really hopeless in such matters. They had no appeal to his nature or to the men about him. Yet that was no reason for the champions of the reform to cease working and arguing. It was because they kept on crying out and sparing not that in time the needed atmosphere was created in which the new ideas could thrive. After Grant came Hayes, who did much for civil service reform, and then Cleveland, who did more, and finally Roosevelt and Taft still further to advance the principle and extend its application. It was the old moral of the stone which the builders rejected becoming the head of the corner.

Most political reforms have their well-recognized stages. First they are described as “humbug” or pure lunacy; then they begin to be talked of as attractive but utopian; next they are grudgingly accepted in theory but kept out of practice; finally a timid and reluctant experiment with them is tried, they are found to work well, and after that, the breach being made in the dam, the waters come out with a rush. When politicians live long enough, they take pride in advocating the very reforms which as young men they had denounced as dreamer's nonsense or

canting hypocrisy. Not everything that is at first unpopular is reform. It is well to make a note of that. Simply because a man is attacked to-day he may not be certain that he will be praised and fêted to-morrow. He may be, and may deserve to be, attacked both days. But any party or group or individual that has hold of a vital

and germinating principle of political progress may well take heart of hope from the history of civil service reform, and other progressive movements, and press on with the confidence of a Gladstone that, whatever may be the temporary ebbing, in the end the flowing tide will be on the right side.

The Evening Post.

TWO SONNETS.

By *Silas Wegg.*

I. Appointment.

I seem upon the borders of a land,
 A land enchanted, where all dreams come true,
 The promised Canaan with its heartsome view.
 Of grapes and olives after years of sand.
 O, many are the wires which this hand
 This raw right hand, has pulled and let slip through ;—
 But merit, with good backing, gets it's due,
 And here am I amid the chosen band.

A desk to sit at, and a chairs 'hat wheels
 Upon its axis like the sun or moon !
 Address me not as Silas. With both heels
 I spurn presumptuous speech from thee, base loon.
 Who knowest not fit hours to take thy meals
 But hast thy vulgar dinner served at noon.

II. Disappointment.

Are these the Estimates, and is it this all
 The State provides for him who bears the heat
 And burden of the day ? Ah, hope was sweet
 When first I heard my grateful count y's call,

But bitter as the wormwood and the gall
 Are these cold facts upon the printed sheet,
 This scroll of Fate from which the Fates delete
 The words of promise as a senseless scrawl.

"Where does he dine to-day ?" I hear them laugh,
 Those scornful Philistines now in the swim.
 "Does he regale himself on fatted calf ?
 I trow the swine's husks were a treat to him.
 Come, write for Silas now his epitaph,—
 'Wegg also ran. He had a wooden limb.'"

Business
Man's
Lunch
Full Course
50c.

Murphy - Gamble Limited

Smoking
Room and
Rooms for
Private
Parties.

6 2 0 1

Our Phone Number

CARPETS and CURTAINS

FOR ARTISTIC INTERIORS.

The autumn house renovating season is here, and while painters, paper-hangers and mural decorators are busy is the best time to have measurements taken for Rugs and Carpets, windows measured for Shades and Curtains, doors for hangings and Portieres, so that they will be ready for adjustment when the workmen are finished and the house will be in a state of chaos not longer than is absolutely necessary.

The advent of a Royal Governor-General, and a change of Government will have an unusually important bearing on the business of Interior Furnishings this autumn, and an exceptionally busy season is anticipated.

Our THIRD FLOOR is splendidly stocked to produce the most inviting, artistic and elegant surroundings that a fastidious circle of trade would want to dwell amidst, or to entertain their political friends among, for official hospitality naturally forms the basis of the social fabric in Canada's Capital. Here are a few hints of important essentials in beautiful furnishing schemes ;

GENUINE ORIENTAL RUGS from Persia, Turkey and India.

ORIENTAL PATTERNED RUGS in Axminster and Wilton Qualities.

Rugs in Floral, Ribbon, Louis XVI and Conventional Designs.

LACE CURTAINS in Irish Point, Marie Antoinette, Duchess, Arabian and Brussels Net Qualities.

All piece
Carpets
at 20%
Discount

Murphy - Gamble Limited

Borders
and
Stairs
to match.

Please Patronize Our Advertisers.

JUST TO REMIND YOU

Lawn Chairs, Rockers, Settees

made of Hickory and Maple, in natural finish, or in Maple finished red or green. -

Large, comfortable, well-made, a satisfactory article for you to buy at this time of the year. - - - - -

CASH or CREDIT

S. A. LUKE, 59-61 Rideau St.

**We are now open for Business
At our new Premises**

ROSENTHAL BUILDING

**A. Rosenthal & Sons,
LIMITED.
SPARKS ST.**

Please Patronize Our Advertisers.

URGES CIVIL PENSIONS.

A United States Senator says the State should be a Model Employer.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 23.—Former Senator Dick of Ohio, director of the committee of one hundred, has issued a statement praising the stand taken by Postmaster General Hitchcock in regard to the pensioning of superannuated clerks. In his statement, Senator Dick says :

"The recent declaration of Postmaster General Hitchcock in favor of a retirement system for federal employees in the classified service has increased public interest in the work of the committee. Mr. Hitchcock has announced his intention of advocating the idea in his forthcoming annual report, and it is hoped that other members of the cabinet will do the same.

"The incident which prompted the recent statement of the postmaster general was the discharge by the postmaster in New York city of two letter carriers, who had been engaged in that office for a period of some 60 years each. Both men were dismissed without any provision for their future, except such as may be made for them by relatives of other persons charitably disposed.

"As has been remarked before, the United States should be the model employer of labor, not only as to wages and hours of service, but all other conditions. It is safe to say, however, that an incident like this would not occur in the case of any private corporation employing any considerable number of persons. It is said corporations are soulless, but it is doubtful if any railroad or industrial corporation, whether maintaining a general retirement system or not, would discharge from its employ, without making any provision whatever for them, two men who had worked faithfully for more than half a century.

"No blame can be attached to the

postmaster who let these men go, for he has no authority either to pension post-office employees, or to retain employees who can no longer make an adequate return for the salaries paid them."

"There may be some question as to whether or not the principle of competition has lost its efficiency as a regulator of prices, but there can be no question that the ever-increasing philanthropy of the present age causes the public generally to feel there is something wrong in a system which makes possible the incident above referred to, and that there is a very wide-spread and steadily growing sentiment in favor of some retirement plan for employees of the federal government who have grown old in the service.

"It is expected that congress will recognize the justice of this demand when the facts are fully presented, and will enact some retirement plan for employees in the civil service, especially in view in the fact that many superannuated employees are now being paid full compensation who are unable to perform a full day's service, and that it will work both for economy and efficiency to retire these clerks on part pay. The present condition will not only continue, but grow worse because of the disinclination of department chiefs to dismiss those who have grown old in the service."

Personals.

Mr. C. E. Willox, Immigration Inspector Niagara Falls, was erroneously stated in a recent issue to have removed to British Columbia. Mr. Willox was only temporarily in British Columbia to assist in prosecuting evasions of the act.

Births

BEARDSLEY—On Sunday, Sept. 17, 1911, at 564 Elgin st., to Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Beardsley, (nee McLennan) a son.

CAWDRON—At Maternity Hospital,

- Sunday, Sept. 24, 1911, to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cawdron, of Dominion the Police Branch, a son.
- NAGLE—On Monday, Sept. 25, 1911, at 5 Second Ave., to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nagle, of the Dept. of Interior, a daughter.
- WESTMAN—On Sept. 26, 1911, to Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Westman, of the Dept of Inland Revenue, 52 First Ave., a daughter.

Marriages

- FAIRBANKS-BONIN—On Sept. 23, 1911, in St Jean Baptiste Church, Ducille, second daughter of Mr. E. L. Fairbanks, of the Post Office Department, of Ottawa, to M. Lucid Bonin, of Port Arthur, Ont.
- YOUNG-HOLLAND - At All Saints' church, Ottawa, on Monday, October 2nd, by Rev. A. W. Mackay, Iva Hilson, daughter of Mr. Andrew Holland, Official Reporter of the Senate, to Weldon C. Young, son of Wm. Young, of this city.

Deaths

- BONNER—On Monday, 18th Sept., Philippa Bonner, in her 24th year, sister of J. J. Bonner, of the Post Office Department.
- ANDREWS—Suddenly, Sept. 19, 1911 at her home, Russell Road, Eastview, Rebecca Andrews, relict of the late George Andrews, of the Government Printing and Stationery Department, in her 68th year.

THE OTTAWA COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association is flourishing. The members now number over 350. The business has doubled within the last two months, and perhaps the only objection to the present situation is that the continued increase in the business overtaxes the staff and the delivery system at times to the inconvenience of the members. This, however, is really an encouraging feature and shows that the Civil Servants are ap-

preciating the advantages of their own store.

The staff has been increased by the addition of two members this last month and further increases must be made in the near future.

The store has been rapidly stocked up so that it can now cater to every demand in the grocery line. Mr. Kelly, the Manager, has succeeded in securing a large quantity of fruit direct from the growers. In this he is carrying out the basic principles of co-operation in dealing direct with the producers. The first carload of apples, (Nova Scotia Gravensteins) has arrived. The greater part of them will be handled but once between the producer and the consumer. They were loaded on the car in the Annapolis Valley by the growers and will be delivered direct to the homes of the consumers. Should there be any discrepancies between the grade and the quality of the fruit, there will be no difficulty in placing the blame upon the proper people

The Manager and the Directors have been much annoyed at the confusion arising between the names Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association and the Civil Service Ice Company. Even some members of the Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association are not aware that this Association has no control of or any connection with the Civil Service Ice Company, which is a joint stock and private outside concern.

A very cordial invitation is extended to all Civil Servants to visit the Co-operative Store even though they may not be able to become members.

Co-operator.

PATRONAGE AND PARTY.

Editorially the *Toronto News* states:

"Already a Liberal newspaper is lecturing Mr. Borden on the evils of patronage. The News has always argued for a permanent civil service and against the spoils system. It believes that Mr. Borden is a whole-hearted

advocate of civil service reform and that this principle will be enforced by his Administration.

"Conservatives, however, cannot forget that for fifteen years every appointment to the civil service throughout the country was governed only by party considerations. In the whole treatment of Conservatives for that period there has been offensive and intolerable arrogance. Indeed in many constituencies of the West the civil service has simply been the organized machine of the Liberal party.

"It was largely through the influence and activity of civil servants that Mr. Haultain was defeated in successive contests in Saskatchewan. It was with their aid that the Autonomy Acts were imposed upon the new provinces. In the contest of the 21st as in previous elections they were chiefly responsible for the huge majorities polled by Liberal candidates in the newer settlements. It may be that some of these unscrupulous agents of party, supported by public money, require attention, but certainly no official who has done his duty and has abstained from political activity will be disturbed."

Correspondence.

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

From a Satisfied Subscriber.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I think you know that I am much pleased with *The Civilian* and I feel sure that before long very few of the members of the C. S. (outside) will care to be without it. The last number containing a synopsis of the Report of Mr. Brown on Superannuation is alone worth the yearly subscription. I feel sure that everything will go on swimmingly when we outsiders are put under the Commission. I know of one Officer of I. R. who was thus addressed by his M.P. "What do you want to

Bonds & Investments

G. W. FARRELL & CO.

Members Montreal Stock Exchange

BOND BROKERS & FINANCIAL AGENTS

Correspondence Invited.

45 St. Francois Xavier St.
MONTREAL

bother with the C. S. Association or *The Civilian* for? I can do more for you than either of them when the right time comes." The Officer promptly withdrew from the Association, dropped *The Civilian* and took a half-dozen officers with him. I enclose my own subscription.

Yours very sincerely,

Semi-Staff Officers.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

"Will you kindly give some information in the next issue of *The Civilian* as to what became of the measure that was introduced last session in reference to the admission of the Semi-Staff Officers to the benefits of the Civil Service Act. Will you also state to what extent the said measure will benefit the members of Semi-Staff offices. Will said offices be placed on the same basis as City offices? May we hope for an eight-hour work day?

Any information that you may be

able to publish on the above subject will be much appreciated by

“A Semi-Staff Officer.”

Sept. 20th, 1911.

(There was no measure introduced in the House last Session in regard to admitting semi-staff offices to the benefits of the Civil Service Act, as the writer of the accompanying letter appears to suppose. Under section 12, Chapter 8, Statutes of 1910, the Governor in Council has authority to bring any Post Office under the Civil Service Act on making provision in the Estimates for the salary of the Postmaster and staff.—Eds.)

“Many Splendid Articles”

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

We thank you for complying with our request in sending the complementary copies of your valuable publication to the persons named in our previous letter.

We take great pleasure in quoting liberally from *The Civilian* in our magazine, the *Civil Service Advocate*, and we are greatly indebted for the privilege of reading the many splendid articles which appear from time to time in *The Civilian*.

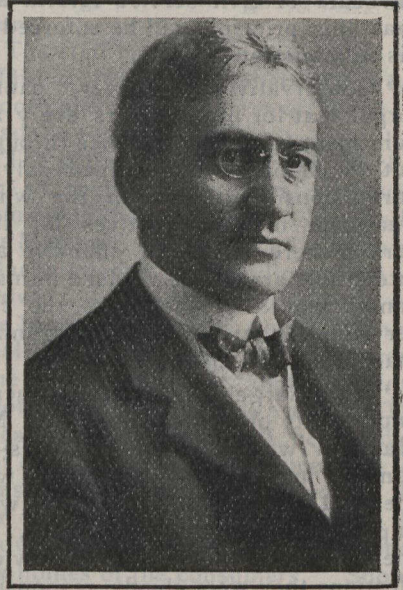
Very sincerely yours,
Llewellyn Jordan,
Secretary.

Civilian Portraits.

Mr. L. J. GABOURY.

The *Canadian Courier* under the heading “A Bi-Lingual Post Office” paid in its last issue the following deserved tribute to Mr. L. J. Gaboury of that office:

“Montreal is the greatest bi-lingual post-office in America, and its assistant-postmaster is a bi-linguist. Mr. L. J. Gaboury was born at St. Cesaire, in the county of Rouville. His father, a notary, educated him for the law, after



Mr. L. J. GABOURY.

he had taken his B.A. from Marieville Seminary. Two years of law were enough for him, and he switched to business and thence into the civil service. His first important post was superintendent of the D. L. O.—Dead Letter Office—of the Montreal Division and this post requires a live man always. In 1906 he received the appointment as assistant postmaster. Because of the illness of the late Postmaster, he has been in almost entire charge of this important office, the largest and most difficult in Canada. He has shown great zeal in the discharge of his duties and has won the good opinion of his superior officers.

“Not long ago, there was a great discussion in New York as to whether Mr. Morgan, the assistant postmaster, should be made postmaster, and the political pot fairly boiled over. However, the cause of good government won and Mr. Morgan received the appointment. Just now in Montreal there is a similar struggle. Shall Mr. Gaboury receive a natural and well-earned promotion, or shall a politician who knows nothing about post-office work be put into this important post,

as was done in Toronto and other places? This is a question of considerable importance to the country as a whole. It is interesting to note that the Board of Trade, other commercial bodies, and the daily press are all united in declaring that the best interests of the public would be served by the promotion of Mr. Gaboury."

The Hughes-Owens Co.

LIMITED

Montreal & Winnipeg

MANUFACTURERS OF
BLUE AND BLACK PRINT
PAPERS

IMPORTERS OF
EVERYTHING of the DRAW-
ING OFFICE.

"KODAK"

Is our Registered and common-law *Trade-Mark* and cannot be rightfully applied except to goods of our manufacture.

If a dealer tries to sell you a camera or films, or other goods not of our manufacture, under the Kodak name, you can be sure that he has an inferior article that he is trying to market on the Kodak reputation.

If it isn't an Eastman, it isn't a Kodak.

CANADIAN KODAK CO.,

Limited

TORONTO, . . . CANADA

CIVIL SERVICE CLUB NOTES

A most enjoyable smoking concert was held in the Club on Tuesday evening, Sept. 26th. Only 100 members and friends gathered in the cosy rooms. The bright grate fires, the music and speeches helped to pass a delightful evening. Much credit is due to Mr. R. J. McIsaac and his Committee for the success of the evening. Dr. J. G. Rutherford also contributed largely to the programme with witty stories.

The following new members have been elected to the Club:—

C. J. Jones, jr., Transcontinental Ry.
L. Martell, Marine Department,
J. L. Payne, Dept. of Railways,
A. B. Muddiman, Public Works,
Thos. Breen, Public works.

Athletics.

The Tecumseh lacrosse team, champions of the N. L. U. followed the example of the Montreal, and National clubs and made the long journey to the Pacific Coast in the endeavor to wrest the Minto Cup—the emblem of the World's Championship—from the present holders, the Vancouver twelve. The first of the two test matches took place on Saturday last, resulting in an easy win for the Vancouver team by a score of 5 — 0.

The second match will take place on Saturday next. There seems to be no doubt that our western brothers have got the National game down to perfection.

A most spirited ladies' golf championship tournament has been in progress on the links of the Ottawa Golf Club. The undefeated world's champion, Miss Dorothy Campbell, formerly of Scotland, but now of Hamilton, again showed her undoubted superiority at this game of her forefathers. Montreal and Ottawa players do not seem to be able to compete with those from Toronto and Hamilton and the

reasons are hard to seek. However, the competitions are a source of much interest to the spectators and education of young players. Miss Harvey, also of Hamilton, was "runner-up" in the tournament.

The baseball season has been a most successful one in the United States and Canada. The attendance and standard of play have both been above the average. When one reverts to the ancient days of under-arm pitching, catchers without masks or gloves, and other pristine conditions the modern scientific game is really wonderful. The precision in fielding, batting and baserunning is truly phenomenal. While cricket—and we hope lacrosse—will always have their place in summer sports, baseball is without doubt in the first rank in popular favour.

With the juvenile element, there is no doubt that the comparatively cheap cost of paraphernalia combined with the simplicity of the game and rapid change of sides have much to do with its success.

However, from this date until the snow flies little else will be talked of but football. The papers are full of it. On every lot one sees the small boy (and some larger ones) kicking the pigskin. The college and city teams are all endeavoring to inveigle eligible players into their ranks.

Football is a fine, healthy, spectacular game which will always find favour with the public. If the professional element can only be excluded from it, its beneficial effects on the youth of our country will be great.

The friction which existed in the Ottawa club in the opening of the season has been eliminated and everything now points to a most successful season.

A new organization known as the Ottawa Valley Driving Club held a most successful week's meet of harness racing, concluding on Saturday last. The attendance was very good

and the races most keenly contested. Horses were entered from all over Ontario and Quebec. The Gentleman's Race brought the proceedings to a close; it had to be run off in the dark. However, the 5,000 spectators waited until the finish.

THE LATE ROBERT LAIDLAW.

On the 14th August, 1911, there died at Ottawa, Mr. Robert Laidlaw, of the Archives Branch of the Agriculture Department, after an illness of only half an hour.

Mr. Laidlaw was born in Western Ontario on the 20th November, 1848, and early adopted the profession of a newspaperman. In this capacity he covered a great deal of Canada, having been in Winnipeg in the days of Fort Garry, and having worked on papers in many of the chief towns of Ontario.

Gifted with an excellent memory, and a natural born student of history, he soon acquired a knowledge of his native province both accurate and extensive. Genial and kindly in disposition, he made many friends, and it was probably the possession of these faculties which led to his appointment in the fall of 1905 to the Archives, as a travelling agent in search of documents. In the six years of his connection with the civil service, he visited Kingston, Toronto and many other places, searching amongst family records, municipal and provincial collections, for documents of general interest to Canada. Often he came upon entirely unknown and unexpected sources of information and to his zeal and acumen the department and the country owe the possession of many valuable and hitherto unknown documents.

His sudden death was deeply regretted by every member of the Archives staff, who one and all extend their warmest and most sincere sympathy to the widow and orphan daughter and son.

ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN. PREMIER ELECT.

Two years ago, the *London Times*, in an article dated from Toronto, introduced its readers to a prospective visitor from Canada, and incidentally made this prophecy:

"Sooner or later, as the gods shall order, Mr. Borden will be prime minister of Canada; and Englishmen may be certain that when the time comes no sounder British Imperialist will fashion legislation and direct opinion in the oversea dominions."

On September 21 the prophecy was fulfilled. The defeat of reciprocity and the overthrow of the Liberals under Sir Wilfrid Laurier placed the premiership of Canada in the hands of Robert Laird Borden.

The service is well familiar with Mr. Borden's career since he assumed the leadership of his party just ten years ago. But the following sketch of his earlier and apprentice years, culled from an American contemporary, may have less of the ring of every-day statement in connection with the change that has created him Prime Minister of Canada.

"Strangely enough, Mr. Borden, by all the laws and traditions of politics, should have been a Liberal. He should have inherited Liberalism. And, indeed, he did, for the Liberal affiliations of his family were his in the early days before he became a figure in Canadian politics. To-day he is the only Conservative member of a family that has always been strongly Liberal, his father and brothers all being allied with the defeated party. His cousin, Sir Frederick Borden, was minister of Militia under Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"But the premier-elect shook off Liberal ties long before he first ran for office, which was fifteen years ago. He was then a practising lawyer, forty-two years old, with a growing reputation as a leader of the bar in Nova Scotia. He was a native Nova Scotian, having been born in Halifax in 1854, and had appeared as an Attorney in a number of important cases before the

Supreme Court at Ottawa. Thus, he was not entirely unknown throughout Canada, when in 1896, not without considerable persuasion, he consented to enter politics as the Halifax Conservative candidate for member of Parliament.

"In recent years, and more especially in the campaign just closed, Mr. Borden's ability as a speaker has often been mentioned. It was apparently an ability which he acquired with training, for he was not one of those whose entrance into Parliament was marked with a burst of oratory accompanied with floral wreaths from constituents at home. During his first term Mr. Borden spoke seldom, and only upon questions in which legal considerations were dominant. He left on the House an impression of moderate temper and solid qualities, but no one saw in the quiet, studious, capable, unassuming member for Halifax the future premier of Canada. It was apparent that his mind turned naturally to considerations of equity. There was no sign that he was greatly interested in the fervor and ferocity of the party struggle. He was more concerned with the character of legislation that with party exigency and party strategy. It came to be said, as indeed it is still said by his opponents, that he would make an ideal minister of justice, and that at least establishes the impression of capacity and integrity which he made upon the House of commons.

"The elections of 1901 left the Conservative party without a leader. It had been understood that Sir Charles Tupper, the defeated leader, would be succeeded either by G. E. Foster or Hugh John Macdonald. The unexpected defeat of both candidates, however, made it necessary to cast about for a new leader. A caucus of the Conservative minority resulted in the selection of Mr. Borden, and he reluctantly accepted."

Hockey promises to be brisk during the coming winter. Toronto will undoubtedly have a team in the big pro. league. The new arena in Toronto is underway and will provide a sheet of artificial ice, thus ensuring regular matches in the Queen city whose climate is so uncertain in the winter.

This is the season when walking should be in vogue. It cannot be surpassed as a healthy form of exercise. The roads in the vicinity of our cities are on the whole good, and nothing can be more refreshing than a good ten mile jaunt on a fine Saturday afternoon. Much more beneficial than the auto, gentlemen—and ladies!



All Records Broken

By the Underwood Typewriter

SPEED, DURABILITY and OUTPUT
The Most Popular Machine on the Market

M. G. Bristow, 87 Sparks St., Ottawa
TELEPHONE 969

FACTORIES &
WAREHOUSE,
HULL, Que

WOODS Limited

WAREHOUSE,
Winnipeg,
Manitoba.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Tents, Awnings, Flags, Mackina Clothing, Overalls, Sheep Lined Coats, Blankets, Etc Surveyors' Outfits, etc. SILK TENTS, a Specialty

The right place to have clothes pressed right. — All clothing pressed is sterilized. — No extra charge.

MARTIN'S

My Wardrobe & My Valet

New Method \$1.00 per Month.

224 SPARKS ST.

PHONE 25

Howard Smith Paper Co.

LIMITED.

WHOLESALE PAPER

DISTRIBUTORS.

138 McGill Street

::

MONTREAL

Please Patronize Our Advertisers.