

# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. III.

JULY 29th, 1910

No. 7

## A Call to the Service on Government Insurance.

By a Committee of the Federation.

This is not the first announcement made by *The Civilian* on the subject of Government Insurance. Some time ago a campaign of publicity was undertaken in these columns in this connection, with the result that over \$100,000.00 of new insurance was taken out. The importance of the proposition involved has not yet been seized upon by the service.

In the report of Senator Power's committee to the Senate last April in connection with the draft bill on Superannuation, the following reference is made to Government Insurance:

"With a view probably to remedy in some degree the defects of the superannuation law, the Act respecting Government Civil Service Insurance was passed in 1893. This Act was intended to provide for the widows and children of civil servants who availed themselves of its provisions. The number who have done so is exceedingly small, possibly owing to the fact that the largest amount for which insurance can be effected is two thousand dollars."

It is most gracious on the part of

the good Senator to attempt to condone the failure of the service to take up insurance. Some excuse had to be offered and the Senator was not aware of the right one.

The real reason for lack of enterprise on the part of the service is lack of information on the subject. As will be seen, an aggressive movement to overcome this difficulty is now being undertaken by a committee of the Federation. The genius of the insurance business consists largely in the personal canvass. If a man is about to marry or thinks he is about to die, the question of life insurance becomes a pregnant one. Otherwise he must be button-holed and held up at the point of a lead pencil by a specially skilled and highly developed artist in the business. There are no such means available in this case. The next best thing is the plan evolved at the annual meeting of the Federation which has now been crystalized into an organized attempt to advertise the benefits of the Insurance Act throughout the whole service in Canada and abroad.

The following circular letter is being issued from Ottawa:—

### CIVIL SERVICE FEDERATION OF CANADA.

Dear Sir,—

At the annual meeting of the C. S. Federation of Canada held on the 23rd April, the following resolution was adopted in regard to Government Insurance, viz. :—

Insurance.—That for the purpose of emphasizing the advantages of Government Insurance amongst those entitled to benefit by it, a standing committee be appointed, to be known as "The Government Insurance Extension Committee," to consist of 10 members chosen from the largest cities where competent Associations of this Federation have their headquarters, and a chairman and secretary resident in Ottawa; that this committee have power to increase its numbers by appointing a member living in any of the smaller unrepresented districts, whenever deemed desirable; that this committee be instructed to institute and carry on a strenuous propaganda in the interests of this most desirable form of insurance.

The following committee was appointed:—

Montreal, Mr. McLaughlin; Toronto, J. L. Boddy; Quebec, J. A. Belleau; St. John, Hon. A. T. Dunn; Halifax, P. J. Mulcahey; London, Geo. Tyler; Winnipeg, Dr. Barrett; Vancouver, W. A. Blair; Hamilton (Niagara), Jas. O'Brien; Windsor, Dr. J. A. Smith; Charlottetown, Hon. J. F. Whear. Chairman, F. Grierson; secretary, A. M. MacMillan.

The question of the extension of the Government Insurance policy throughout the whole service is a civil service problem of large proportions apart from the benefits of procuring an investment at nearly half the ordinary cost.

Since 1893, when the C. S. Insurance Act became law, seventeen years have passed, and of 8,000 civil servants eligible to benefit by Government Insurance only 400 have done so. This is not creditable to the service. The diffidence of the service in this matter may have a bearing upon the House of Commons in treating the most liberal superannuation bill passed by the Senate at the last session. Senator Power in his report to the Senate (published in *The Civilian* of May 6th) makes reference to the apathy of the service in regard to taking advantage of the liberal Insurance Act of the government. He tries to excuse it, but fails to do so. The indifference of the service in this matter cannot be excused, but it may be forgiven if between now and the next sitting of Parliament the number of policy-holders is increased from 400 to at least 1,000.

Every policy taken out helps a little. There is no fund for the purpose of carrying on this campaign of Insurance extension. The Insurance business is usually done through agents. Every civil servant after insuring himself should become an agent and interest a brother officer. The rates for the cheapest plan make the cost of insurance comparatively insignificant. The committee appeals to the pride and esprit de corps of all civil servants. If those who receive this message do not take the matter up actively, the present campaign falls to the ground dead. The service will then remain under the stigma of having neglected its best opportunity and the chances of a new Superannuation Act may be prejudiced thereby.

Enclosed herewith is a form which may be used in applying to the Superintendent of Insurance for the necessary information. Fill it out and mail it to the Superintendent of Insurance, Ottawa, at once. DO IT NOW. You will then receive a form of application and also a folder containing the table of rates, the C. S. Insurance Act, and regulations made in pursuance of Section 15 thereof.

Do not fail to respond to this call of the Federation.

F. GRIERSON,  
Chairman

A. M. MacMILLAN,  
Customs Dept., Ottawa,  
Secretary  
of Committee on Government Insurance Extension.

The form of application referred to is identical with that used in *The Civilian* in several issues some time ago. Any civil servant reading this article and desiring to act on the moment may write for information to the Superintendent of the Insurance Department, Ottawa, or to A. M. MacMillan, Customs Dept., Ottawa.

## CANADA IN THE FOREGROUND.

It is certainly a matter for congratulation in a comparatively young country like Canada to find herself so far in the van in the matter of such reforms as postal savings banks. The United States, a country much older and larger than this Do-

minion, is just beginning to follow Canada's example by establishing these very beneficial institutions.

Almost every citizen of the U. S. will admit that Canada's banking system is hedged about with safeguards of the public interest which do not to the same extent obtain in the financial enactments of that progressive republic. This was made apparent in a striking manner during the monetary crisis of 1907 when in American cities containing branches of Canadian banks a veritable stampede occurred in order to transfer deposits from the home to the foreign institution. These things furnish matter for national pride—without self-glorification.

## As You Like It.

"All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players."

—Jacques.

One result of the present civil service examinations is to add a number of young girls to the service. Early mornings some public corridors look like a kindergarten parade. Many of these newcomers—fresh from the High School and the Business College—have to be literally broken in. They have been diligent readers of newspaper fairy tales that the job was easy—a cinch, in fact; but now the cinch is on them and things are not what they seemed. If men are driven from the ranks of the third class by budding maidens it will not be well for the work generally. A girl clerk has many limitations in a public office and some inconveniences that she must endure. Reginald Wilfee, of our "Mutual Friend" memory, according to Dickens, was possessed of never-satisfied ambition to wear an entirely new suit of clothes. In all his industrious life he had never been able to secure a new coat until his trousers had become so shabby as to detract from the glory of the coat, nor waistcoat until coat and trousers so showed the wear and tear of use that the glory of the waistcoat made it look out of place. So the girl clerk, ambitious to rise to the position of a chief and wear the suit of authority, is likely to be grey-headed and toothless ere the mantle descends on her unless superannuation or matrimony let her out by a side door. In fact, if she wields authority in the future it is likely to be matrimonial. Here is another weakness of the female employee. Just as she is broken to harness she couples up tandem with

someone else. Unless some amendment is made to the Act increasing the salary in grade A of the third class so as to offer inducements for male stenographers, change and confusion will be always the order of the day in its ranks.

\* \* \*

Knowledge is great! I was in a street car and they were discussing Jacques. Little the twain dreamed that he sat by their side. "As You Like It" was passable, they said, but they unanimously agreed that they could have written better stuff. 'Tis ever thus. Yesterday the world was flat; we knew it. To-day the world is round; we are sure of it. To-morrow the world may be three-cornered. We were positive we would pass through the tail of Halley's comet. Did we? We are sure that Professor Short would not be civil service commissioner if we had to set him an examination after the fashion he sets those unlucky third class fellows. Yesterday the horse was the fastest thing in the world. This morning the locomotive beat the horse. This very afternoon the automobile beat the locomotive. And this evening, perhaps, the aeroplane will out-distance the automobile. Yes, we are all of us very wise. None of us but can tell how this and that question should be—must be settled. The third class clerk sharpening a pencil preparatory to taking down notes thinks he should be Deputy. The maiden school principal makes herself president of the mothers' club. The boy preacher gives lectures on how to

bring up children. The city man is sure he could make money on the farm. Every subscriber knows how to edit the paper better than the editor himself. And,—sole grain of wisdom in the sand heap,—almost any reader can write better than Jacques. Truly, great is knowledge.

\* \* \*

A baker in a little country town near Boston has asked for a license to sing in the streets. He is a Salvationist, peddles doughnuts, and a hymn goes with each one. Certainly he ought to be allowed to sing as much as he and his customers like. For his object is to evangelise the community, and when he is about to deliver a doughnut he delivers a short talk on the need of salvation and a stanza of some uplifting verse. It should go without saying that he is a conscientious baker, and gives full weight and plenty of vigor, that he does not fry his product in rancid lard, or dust it with whitewash, or put the fresh ones on top when he is to sell them by the peek, leaving the gnarly nubbins at the bottom of the measure. Therefore, he pre-disposes the recipient to thankfulness and sanctity, and nobody on his beat has any objection to mixing dough and religion. It might be well if this custom would extend itself. Now if the civil service executive would only shout gleeful hallelujahs as they visit Mr. Murphy and sing that well-known hymn, "Darling, I am Growing Old," as they approach Mr. Fielding to talk about superannuation, what a harmonizing influence it would have. Then the civil service commissioners after an arduous day's toil could softly murmur, "Will there be any stars in my Crown?" To which the candidate, disgusted at the hardness of the examination proper, might add the refrain, "No, Not One," and the political wirepuller, out of employment, put the chorus, "I Am So Glad." So also the employee who locks his office door when the halting money lender is skirmishing nearby, could

whistle "Knocking, Knocking, Who is There," and barricade it the tighter at the answer, "Faint, Yet Pursuing." If singing can be associated with doughnuts, once the symbol of dyspepsia, what can't it associate with?

\* \* \*

How frequently we have heard of the depravity of things inanimate, and how sadly we have agreed. A man rises at midnight with a thirst and starts for the water bottle; he has been over his bedroom a thousand times and knows every inch of it, but the door reaches out and hits him on the nose, the chair comes into collision with his toe, his hip hits the sharp corner of the bed, and—Oh, then, his wife wakes up and asks questions at a time when a man only wants to swear. A solemn student of psychology will tell you that this sort of inanimate depravity is perfectly natural. We heard one tell a man and tell him with an airy pity and condescension, that if a man rising in the night will keep perfectly calm and count six after he gets out of bed before he proceeds to do anything, everything will go along beautifully. Three days later we met the professor with a plastered jaw and a limp, and as he volunteered no information and his wife was a small, weak woman, our curiosity was piqued. The friend who had received the professor's advice ran into us later and he explained that the wise one got up hurriedly to answer the telephone after midnight, forgot to count six, stepped downstairs too fast, landed on his head and back in the umbrella rack, staggered to the phone to find Central wanted somebody else, and spent the rest of his night making repairs and remarks. Our friend had the pleasure of telling the professor that his "count six" theory did not amount to a hill of beans, while his idea of the depravity of inanimate things was the correct one, but the professor won't argue until he is repaired.

Inanimate depravity is bad; but of all the forms of depravity that plague mankind insect depravity is the worst. The worst because insects are too everlastingly spry and numerous to get square with, and because they are utterly indifferent to human argument or protest. There was a colored revival the other day; it was going at express speed and plucking brands from the burning hand over fist, and it looked as if there would soon be another market for wings and halos. Then along came a small colony of hornets looking for trouble, and in spite of hymns, prayers, exhortations and frenzies, those hornets went at the colored brethren head and tail and scattered them, breaking the revival up into a disintegrated number of howling, shrieking, swearing, fighting coons, fleeing everywhere. Prayer can accomplish wonders, miracles, but it doesn't seem to have any sort of moral influence on hornets.

The hornet is a depraved and low-lived insect, whose ferocity and pugnacity put him outside the pale of all human sympathy. His cousin, the wasp, is in the same category; but, if you are looking for a nice, plain brand of depravity, we commend you to the fly, not only the *musea domestica* or house fly, but to all his relations, the mayfly, the sand-fly, the gadfly, and all the other flies whether their names be Latin or plain English. The industrious ant can make it interesting for you if you sit down on his territory, and the gentle gipsy moth can give you something to think about if he catches you in the shade of his old apple tree; but even they are useful and respectable creatures compared with a fly. Neither the common house fly—the Latin gent called *musea domestica*—nor any of his relations, has one redeeming quality. He is active, frivolous, noisy, impudent, familiar, exasperating, nasty, ill-tempered, an enemy of peace, a foe of religion and morals, an asset

of profanity and a constant breeder of trouble. He is now in the community. He will come into the house as if he owned it; he will seek to drive those who live in it out; he will drive the cats frantic and goad the dogs to madness, and he will have his nose in every butter-plate, sugar bowl, milk pitcher, and everything else in the house not covered up. He laughs at screen doors and windows; he despises fly paper; he tortures bald-headed men and sleeping women; he loves to be slapped at and damned, and will express his joy soaring around your head and droning a war song. Come to think of it, the house fly has even the hornet beaten to a frazzle, for except when he is on a jag and running amuck, the hornet only delights in breaking up revivals, camp meetings and Sunday school picnics; while the house fly invades the home and respects neither age nor sex, hygiene or menu, and is depravity in its most loathsome form.

Human depravity is bad. The depravity of inanimate things is bad; but insect depravity makes the criminal activity of all the rest of nature seem virtue beside it. The Board of Health has declared war on the fly, but we will bet on the fly when it comes to industry, energy and attention to business, to being on the job all the time. As John Ruskin said, the fly is the finest living example of perseverance.

\* \* \*

If an unpopularity contest should be started in this burgh, there are a few people in the limelight who would be surprised at the enormous vote they would poll.

\* \* \*

“Her teeth are like stars,” gushed the love-smitten youth,

In an outburst of joyous delight,  
And when they were married he  
found 'twas the teeth—

Like the stars, they came out every  
night.

JACQUES.

# THE CIVILIAN

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of Canada.

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

Ottawa, July 29th, 1910

## THE SERVICE.

To serve one's country is the noblest form of occupation. Such is the status and such should be the attitude of every officer in the government service. The very act of appointment to a position in the service should be an inspiration and a stimulus to patriotism and devotion to duty. To attain the highest ideals of citizenship it is desirable that the inhabitants of a country should be contented and happy. If happiness could be tabulated in the comparative statistics of a country the result would outshine the glamour of material wealth pure and simple.

\* \* \*

*The Civilian* is interested in all that contributes to the happiness and contentment of the members of the civil service. As contributing to that state it is agreeable to learn that the Customs Department has, beginning April 1st, granted extensive increases throughout the Outside Division of that great revenue-

getting service. Reference has already been made in these columns to the increases in the Inland Revenue Department. The Post Office Department is yet to be heard from. The increases so far have been granted to higher officials. The great majority of the officials in the city Post Offices have not yet been considered in respect of the increased, and ever increasing, cost of living. But consideration of the case of their great body of officials charged with important and responsible duties cannot surely be overlooked by the government, however it may be delayed.

\* \* \*

Perhaps nothing, at the present time, would contribute more to the contentment, and thereby the efficiency of the service, than to have the assurance that retirement from active service would not be followed by distress in the case of the official or his family. We desire to impress most forcibly on our readers in the service the fact that we have as a body reached a most important epoch in our economic history. During the last Session of Parliament a bill respecting Civil Service Superannuation was prepared and threshed out by a Committee of the Senate, under the chairmanship of Hon. L. G. Power, which embodied the desires of the service in this all-important matter. This subject, involving as it does a question of finance, cannot, of course, be made the subject of an act originating in the Senate but must first be introduced in the House of Commons. This is the course which it is hoped will be taken in the matter at the ensuing Session.

\* \* \*

Senator Power's committee has performed a noble duty. Between now and the next sitting of Parliament the matter is in the hands of the service itself. At the annual meeting of the Civil Service Federation held in Ottawa last April, the subject of the proposed bill was

brought up and discussed. There was a concensus of opinion that it was of vital importance that the members of the service should be up and doing in order that the facts and considerations in regard to the salient features of this measure should be properly brought before the members of the House and the Press of the country. So strongly did the Federation feel on the subject that a representative committee was appointed for the purpose of endeavouring to accomplish these objects. *The Civilian* desires to co-operate with this committee in the endeavour to establish throughout the country, by means of an educative campaign, a sentiment in favour of the re-establishment of the principle of superannuation. In truth the first step has already been taken in this regard by the publication in *The Civilian* of May 20th of an article furnishing preliminary data for the foundation of an unanswerable argument in favour of the more outstanding features of the draft bill adopted by the unanimous vote of the Senate of Canada. To the information already gleaned we hope to add from time to time, and we earnestly solicit contributions on this subject from our subscribers.

\* \* \*

The service should endeavour to secure the co-operation and support of the leading journals throughout the Dominion and to convince the understanding and enlist the sympathy of every member of the House of Commons. This is the only method in which the end sought for can be attained. In this effort the individual members of the service can be of great assistance to the movement. Nearly everyone of them is personally acquainted with some member of the House, or has friends who enjoy such acquaintance. Now is the time to take action; right at this moment. Do not wait until the guns are booming to announce the opening of the House. If this opportunity is allowed to go by, the occa-

sion may never come again,—or at least not for many years.

We should feel much encouraged and strengthened for the work which we hope to do in this connection if we could receive from the members of the service assurances of their intention to help in this meritorious propaganda. And we would earnestly bespeak the aid and endorsement of the local press of Ottawa, which has on all questions affecting the civil service shown themselves in favour of any good movement which has merit behind it.

\* \* \*

We would particularly direct the attention of our readers to a circular letter printed in this number of *The Civilian*. It is being issued by a committee of the C. S. Federation appointed in connection with government insurance policy; the desire being to increase the number of policy-holders before the next sitting of Parliament so that the past dereliction of the service in regard to this generous measure may not be quoted against that body in connection with the Superannuation Bill referred to above.

It is impossible that this letter can be placed in the hands of the thousands of members of the service eligible to participate in its advantages. The publication of the letter to-day is in the hope that members of the service seeing it may be induced to write to the Insurance Department for particulars as to the best thing the members of the service at present have at their disposal.

\* \* \*

The foregoing treatment of the case of the service in the several matters of Finance, Pay, Superannuation and Insurance may smack too much of the materialistic and the sordid. But our theme to-day is the happiness of the service and a full stomach and a contented mind are at the bottom of such a condition. Too much prosperity has brought many a good man low. Opulence

is often the precursor of indolence. There need be no fear of this in a community of government servants. The material rewards of public service are in all democratic countries maintained at a degree of modesty that precludes the possibility of mental decay on account of affluential accumulations. The progress and development of the human race have been most marked according as man more and more has been relieved of the harassing struggle for mere existence, and is enabled to devote an untrammelled mind to the duties of his vocation, or the pleasure of intellectual pursuits in his hours of leisure. The nearer the civil service of Canada approaches this happy condition of mind and body, the more efficacious and efficient will become the nature of its public service.

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#### THE QUARTERLY REPORTS.

Very little has been heard of the quarterly report which is supposed to be made upon the conduct of every civil servant in the service at Ottawa. No news is supposed in this case to be good news as every adverse report upon the conduct of an officer must, by law, be submitted for the inspection of the official concerned. It may be that the old system of viva voce report is still practised or it may be that the only report upon conduct, whether censorious or praiseworthy, is the written one demanded by law. In any case the responsibility placed in the hands of Deputy Ministers and chiefs of branches is of the weightiest and most serious nature. A man thus invested with authority should sit down and calmly consider what it means to sit in judgment upon his fellowman. He might read up the latest treatise on the "fallibility of human evidence." He might well submit his soul to a minute examination as to whether he is free from the many baneful varieties of that

universal human weakness called bias, such as the personal, the social or the religious. There is no intention to impute malice on the part of any official charged with the important function of reporting upon the efficiency and conduct of a clerk. The difficulties are largely ethical and judicial. Justice to all is an almost unattainable moral attribute in this imperfect mundane sphere, and if anything here set down, written as it is in the most kindly spirit, causes a single officer to make his reports more thoughtfully, with a higher sense of the responsibilities involved, our suggestions will not be in vain.

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#### ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

With our first June number we intimated that we had started on a campaign having as its object the doubling of our circulation within twelve months. We asked the co-operation and support of the members of the civil service throughout Canada.

We may say that of late we have received very encouraging evidences in the way of new subscriptions. In the same mail, recently, we were favoured with 32 new names from Vancouver, while St. John, N.B., responded to our call with 28, thus showing that the interest extends from ocean to ocean. Then we obtained 80 new subscriptions in Ottawa, and 10 more from Hamilton, thus making 160 since the previous issue. This is at the rate of 9 new names per day, and is most encouraging to us.

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He was a sturdy Scotchman, and he stood before the new city hall, gazing up at the simple legend over the portal. Then he turned to his wife.

'Annie,' he says, 'd'ye see hoo the Scots will be iver cappin' them a'? I dinna ken who this mon McMIX may be, but his name above the door yonder makes my heart leap with pride.'

The building bore the date, MCMIX.



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50c Tin Lobsters.....	<b>45c</b>
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## *At the Sign of the Wooden Leg.*

Two summers ago the service was paying admiration, both mute and vocal, to a word, and the word was Reorganization. The homage has ceased, because the word did not become flesh and dwell among us. Let this statement be not deemed irreverent, for there is in all words the potentiality of incarnation, and some have become mighty unto salvation. But, while the fires on our altars have faded away, there remains the skeleton that might have been a god, and now and again the winds move with a mournful rattle among the bones, Tibia calling unto Fibula, and the phalanges of the fingers echoing back to the phalanges of the toes the sad refrain, "What are we here for?"

I am informed by my dear friend, Mr. Venus, that such movements do not betoken, or to be more exact, cannot betoken, the advent of life. When I recall to him the vision of dry bones in the valley seen by Ezekial he replies contemptuously that the old school of "articulators" could not be in advance of the new, and so, as a subject of scientific inquiry, the miracle that some have been assuming in regard to this word of ours must be laid aside for further consideration, that is to say, referred to the civil service commission.

However, there survive in the memory of many those inspiring words of Section Eight—"due regard being had to the status of each officer or clerk as the case may be," and as evidence that the spirit has not ceased to wrestle with us a friend of mine cited a regulation which, he said, is in force in one of the departments, that, when traveling, clerks (or officers, pardon me) of the first division may stay at first-class hotels, but clerks below that rank must be content with second-class hotels. Is this not suffi-

cient to call forth the "Nunc Dimittis" from some of the old guard who have peered for so many years into the mists of the future seeking the promise of a new day? The old order changeth yielding place to new, and the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof. We have tried many and various ways of testing men for promotion,—by written examinations, by regard to seniority, by a scrutiny of the voters' lists, by a review of the hockey scores, and even by a general summing up of a man's fitness for his place,—but here is the magic wand that tells gold from brass and false from true, the appeal to the Supreme Court of the Stomach.

No longer will it be necessary to exclaim, "Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed that he is grown so great?" There are the vouchers from the Chateau Frontenac. And if you should wish to know why John Doe, of Division IIB, turns pale at the mention of pork and beans, you have but to examine the punch marks on that ticket of his issued by the Sailors' Home of Three Rivers. Many men, many menus. While the Comptroller of Government Locks and Knobs begins his breakfast with musk melon and the sunny side of a California peach, the fourth assistant paymaster of the fleet is dipping his silveroid spoon in the murky juice of last year's prunes. By their fruits ye shall know them.

There is one thing about this arrangement that may give bother. Suppose, just for instance, (there is no *lèse majesté* in just supposing) that an officer of the upper and a clerk of a lower grade should happen to be in a small one-hotel town on the same day. How would they fix affairs so as to preserve the due regard for the status of each that these regulations seek to establish. Of course one could sit above and one below the salt, or the senior could be served at the first and the junior at the second table, but still

there would be an equality of fare, which assumes an equality of stomachs.

Perhaps an emergency ration might be provided the higher officer, some dainty portion of caviare, that he would take as a sort of sacrament before or after his meal, thus preserving in form at least the distinction between him and "this publican." As a complete saver of the situation, it might be ordered that the junior clerk should drop on one knee before the senior and present the hallowed morsel to him, repeating as he did so some one of the Oriental formulas of obeisance, a manual of which for ready reference could be issued by the Militia Department, or, since this is a matter affecting what we take into our stomachs, by the Department of the Interior.

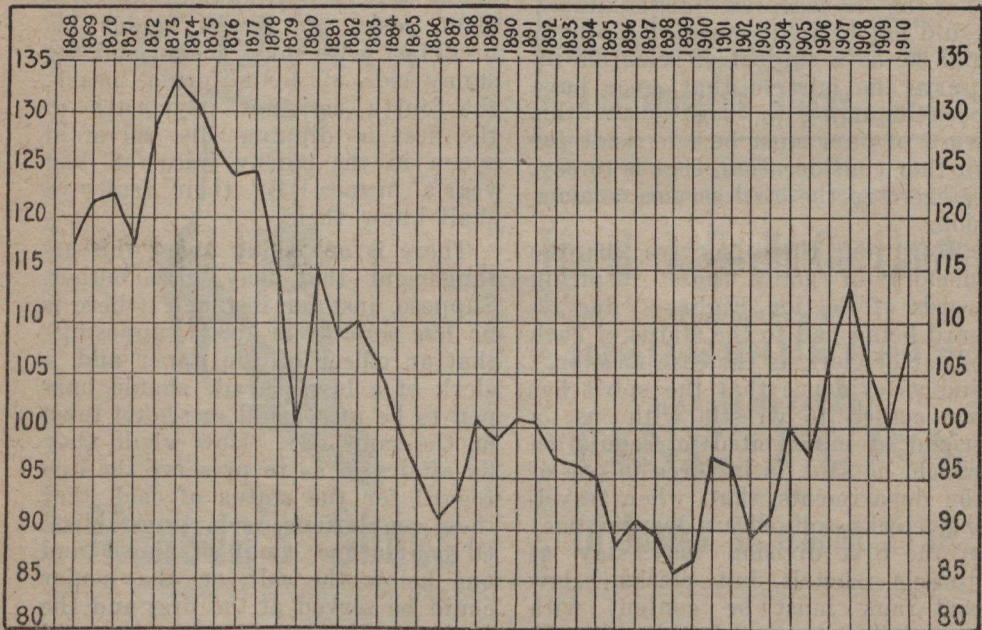
A final suggestion. Would it not be well to have the divisions of the service renamed to suit this gastronomic reorganization, the highest grade being the Porterhouse Division, the next the T-Bone Division, the third being known as the Liver-and-Bacon Division, while all unfortunates below that rank would come under the general name of Hash. To seek a senior position would truly be playing for big stakes. Promotion would then come as a matter of course, and he that persevered unto the wine and walnuts would incidentally get his desserts and attain at last that haven of superannuation which the poet had in mind when he wrote,

"I'm going home to dine no more."

SILAS WEGG.

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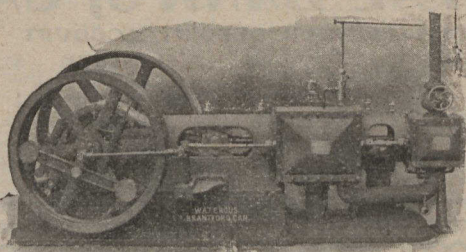
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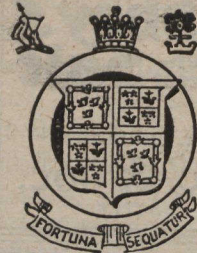
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## ERRORS IN SORTATION.

By G. O'C.

A few days ago I heard a veteran railway mail clerk, whose general record is first class, make the following remarks regarding the new reporting system which has been inaugurated for the purpose of minimizing errors in sortation by railway mail clerks:

"I have closely observed, for many years, the work of men in all the professions and branches of business, and I have come to the conclusion that no class of workers perform their daily duties more perfectly than railway mail clerks, and not many men have to work under more trying physical and mental strain, as is proved by the prevalence of nervous and dyspeptic ailments which the ordinary mail clerk suffers from.

"The railway mail clerk cannot work deliberately, but is always 'rushed', constantly competing with the flight of time, often working with inadequate daylight or artificial light, his car being sometimes too hot, sometimes too cold, but always vibrating in a most disagreeable manner -- indeed some cars shake, jolt and rattle like a stiff ox-cart bumping over a corduroy road.

"Then, too, he has to adapt his tired eyes to every conceivable style of address, many being very imperfect, particularly the addresses on newspapers, which have to be deciphered upside down or any way convenient.

"Very rarely can a mail clerk revise his sortation; he generally has no time to do so. He has to learn his sorting case by heart, for he does not often have time, at the commencement of his run, to label his boxes, the result being that he occasionally misplaces correspondence; but, in proportion to the thousands of pieces which he handles, the percentage of misplaced or mis-sent matter is remarkably small. Often letters and cards stick to each other and the fact is not detected at the time. In many, many cases the distance between stations is so short, and the time so limited, that the tying up and despatching of mails is a steady succession of "frantic rushes," which certainly prevents perfect work, — how could it be otherwise? But, still, in spite of all difficulties, the railway mail clerks honestly strive to do correct work.

"Of course the heads of departments are quite right to find means, if possible, to eliminate errors; but is it well to increase the nervous strain under which the railway mail clerk works by having the postmasters all over the Dominion check each clerk's work and report every case of misplacing or mis-sending?

"The clerks, for a while, will make an

extra heroic effort to give postmasters no reason for reporting them, but I fear that this special effort will only increase their physical and mental troubles without effecting permanent good; for poor human nature can just stand so much strain and no more. What follows? An earlier breakdown of the clerks."

These are the remarks of one whom I know to be one of the most efficient railway mail clerks in Ontario — one who takes a keen interest in his work and would not dream of obstructing or making difficulties for the heads of departments.

As I consider it well for chiefs to know the honest opinions of their subordinates, these remarks from a first class railway mail clerk are worthy of a place in the civil servants' mouthpiece, *The Civilian*.

---

## ORIGIN OF "O.K."

---

The late John Halloran, commonly known as "Judge" Halloran, a well-known printer of Chicago, once gave the following explanation of these much-used letters to Joseph La Fleur, who published it in *The Typographical Journal*. In the course of their conversation the "Judge" produced a magazine and proceeded to read an article discussing the origin of the sign "O.K.": "Origin obscure; usually said to have been originally used by Andrew Jackson," and also, "The abbreviation will be found in Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms, second edition, Boston, 1859, page 524"; and further, "According to the Standard School Dictionary, it is merely an abbreviation for the humorous spelling—'orl korrekt.'" "It is amusing, indeed," said "Judge" Halloran, "for one who knows the facts to read all this humbug. The whole truth of the matter is, the O. K. with which union printers are so familiar originated right here in Milwaukee, and its real meaning is 'Old Colonel.' 'Col.' E. M. B. Hasbrouck, an old member of Typographical Union No. 23, was the best proofreader that ever lived—or at least he had no contemporary equal. He was known as the 'Old Colonel.' It was the custom of The Evening Wisconsin in those days to give second reading to all proofs read by proofreaders except those read by the 'Old Colonel,' and to designate those from the others, his initials—O. K.—were written on the margins."

"But, Judge, 'K' does not stand for colonel!"

"Oh, yes, it does. In this case you must spell it 'kernel.' Hasbrouck acquired the title from the very peculiar shape of his nose!" said the "Judge."

## Correspondence.

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

To the Editors of *The Civilian* :

In the capacity of an interested reader of *The Civilian* since it was first launched a little over two years ago, perhaps I can furnish clues from my own personal observation why not more than 50% of the members of the inside service subscribe to the only paper devoted to the interests of civil servants in the Dominion.

Upon asking a fellow civil servant why he did not subscribe, on one occasion, he informed me that he thought *The Civilian* kicked too much "agin the government" our employers. Very curiously when asking another civil servant the same question I was met with the excuse that the paper did not "kick" enough. This illustration may go to show that *The Civilian* in common with all other periodicals cannot please everybody.

Then again there is another class of non-subscribers who run the paper down, and say that it is not worth the money, but yet who never fail to have a glance at the copy on a subscribing neighbour's desk. Such economy certainly gives the lie in their instance to the statement of a certain Senator who said that civil servants were extravagant.

Wishing you prosperity and increased circulation in the future,

I am, sincerely yours,

"ANOTHER CIVIL SERVANT."

Ottawa, July 22nd, 1910.

### A New Member Speaks.

To the Editors of *The Civilian* :

Enclosed please find one dollar for one year's subscription to your paper. When I was canvassed to subscribe I noticed that quite a number of the staff in my office had never heard of this journal, and some had heard of it but never seen it. The letter of "Civil Servant" in the last issue is very much to the point. How many of us willingly subscribe to useless, sensational trash,—at far greater cost,—and yet refuse to put up a paltry dollar for a magazine which is trying to do (and has done) good work for the service as a whole. Now that the service is getting on a sound merit basis it should be a matter of pride that we have an official organ. As "Civil Servant" says, it is easy to criticize, but let us have the views of the service generally as to how the paper may be improved.

Yours,

SIMPLEX.

Ottawa, July 25th, 1910.

## Concerning Increases.

To the Editors of *The Civilian* :

During last Session when the Excise Officers heard that a bill was passed granting them a raise of salary, there was a general rejoicing: Petitions, statistics, etc., had finally prevailed in their favor, and long years of hard work were rewarded.

As everybody was anticipating justice, not too soon came the circular bearing the stamp of the Order-in-Council, as published in your recent issue. As a disinterested party I may say, however, that as soon as the communication was received, the general good feeling vanished. The hearty applause fell off in some corners. Why? Because some had seen their rights sacrificed.

If you go over the percentage established by the Order-in-Council, you will see that third, second and first class officers may receive an annual increase of \$100.00, \$90.00 and \$75.00 a year; collectors, deputy-collectors and special class officers \$100.00 a year. Why so?

But where the discrimination is more apparent, is in Section 27 granting the chief officer in charge of a distillery a maximum salary of \$2,500.00, leaving others of the same class aside.

Why should the other special class officers be treated differently; have they not an equal share of responsibility and sometimes more work? Why a different tariff for these, when all others are on equal basis? Haven't they both worked hard day and night for the same object? Is it not sufficient that the special list being limited to thirty in number a score of officers eligible to that class have to wait some long years for their turn, few points often costing them hundreds of dollars?

As an example, how would you reconcile it to see two officers, successful at a special class examination, one with the minimum 1,200 points in charge of a distillery at \$2,500.00 a year, and the other with the maximum of points, 1,500, in charge of a tobacco or other plant at \$1,900.00 a year? Is not the man in charge of a 100 dollar silver bag to be paid the same price as the one handling by chance the 100 dollar gold bag?

As the arrangement of the schedule of salary can be modified, no doubt the Department will be pleased to re-adjust this matter, as these remarks are made in good faith.

A SUBSCRIBER.

### Ingersoll's Dilemma.

By the late Father Tabb.

Says Bob to the devil: "I do not believe In the doctrine of hell—nor in you!"

Says the devil to Bob, "You must or be damned."

Says Bob, "I'll be damned if I do!"



**Printer's Ink.**

On Topics of Interest to Civil Servants.

**The Bureau and the Service.**

From The Toronto Star.

*The Civilian*, a journal devoted to the interests of the civil service, begins its leading editorial thus:

"The newspapers throughout Canada have done their little best to blacken the civil service with the blame and the shame of what has happened at the Printing Bureau."

This is the utterance of feeling rather than of judgment. When the cry, "Stop thief!" is raised, undoubtedly suspicion takes a wide range and excited pursuers are apt to give currency to rumors and conclusions hastily taken up and not always perfectly expressed. It is also natural that, on the one hand, those seen in the suspect's company should be subjected to somewhat rude inquiry, and on the other, that these should be affected by the general excitement and so resent vociferously any imputation, express or implied, that they are partakers in guilt.

But it is hardly fair, in this case, even for excited people, to say that the newspapers generally have made the Printing Bureau iniquity an occasion for impugning the honor of the civil service. On the contrary, a number of journals have taken occasion, even at this stage, to point out that the fact that so much is made of the errors, still unproven, of one man shows that wrongs such as are alleged against him are rare, and that the civil service, as a whole, is sound.

There is no particular reason for drawing conclusions at this stage. The case is under investigation, and nobody doubts that that investigation will be thorough. When the facts are collected and made public it will be time enough to judge whether this affair is the crime of one

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man, the wickedness of a class or the imperfection of a system.

Meantime, the sensational features of the case appeal to newspaper readers, and in presenting those features from day to day reporters and correspondents are likely to make statements or suggest inferences which a more complete knowledge will fail to justify. Anybody who makes imputations against the civil service now because of Printing Bureau irregularities speaks irresponsibly, and the civil service and those who speak on its behalf will probably facilitate any work of reform that may be necessary by ignoring such utterances for the present.

Mrs. Newhouse was patiently instructing her Irish maid-of-all-work as to the proper names of certain articles.

"And Bridget," she said at one time, "these are ewers—ewers—don't call them jugs any more."

"Sure an' I won't, ma'am," said Bridget joyously. "And is all them little basins mine, too, ma'am?"—Youth's Companion.

**FAITHFUL PUBLIC OFFICIAL.**

One of the most interesting events since our last issue was the unveiling of a fine drinking fountain to the late Dr. Fletcher, at the Experimental Farm, on the 19th inst., in the presence of a very large number of persons.

Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, performed the ceremony, and paid a glowing tribute to the deceased gentleman. The Minister referred to the unselfishness of Dr. Fletcher and the keen interest which he always took in his work,—an interest which he was able to impart to others with whom he was brought in contact. Mr. Fisher stated that this unselfishness and zeal largely contributed to the premature and much-deplored demise of this emi-

nent scientist. As a public servant he was an example to all.

Many other tributes were paid to Dr. Fletcher and his work by Dr. William Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farm; Dr. W. D. Lesueur, Mr. F. T. Shutt and Mr. C. J. S. Bethune of Guelph. Mr. R. B. Whyte, speaking for the Field Naturalists Club of Ottawa, said that the great growth and success of that organization were due almost entirely to the efforts of Dr. Fletcher.

Mr. E. R. Cameron, Registrar of the Supreme Court, was chairman of the occasion, and the Ottawa Flower Guild were also present in large numbers. It was indeed an important and impressive ceremony, appreciative of the true worth of a high-minded gentleman and an earnest, faithful public official.

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## Here and There among Public Servants.

Edited by "Snap."

A good many people I know will be interested to hear of the new sect which a prophet of the name of Kusmitch has founded at Tiflis. He and his followers hold and preach that only three days and a half in every week ought to be given to work. The rest should be devoted to recreation and the recuperation of the strength lost in labour. Idleness is a sin, they say, but so is too great industry, and every man ought to regulate his life so that he may have an equal share of activity and of rest. Such is the guiding principle of the 'half weekers,' or 'pol nedeli.'

A new item to the above effect inspired a British civil service poet in the *British Civilian* to the following:

\* \* \*

From Tiflis, o'er the Euxine Sea, the latest prophet calls to me  
Bids me but work for half the week, and ample recreation seek  
The other half O blessed creed! of which so long I stand in need;  
Hail, Kusmitch, Prophet of the Light! Thy happy creed I feel is right.  
With horror idleness I view; but ceaseless work is tedious too.  
I see before me half-week-ends and joyous intercourse with friends;  
And then restored, with health endued, I wend to work with nerve renewed.  
I'll join your banner readily; write me as true "pol-nedeli."  
First let your blessed message fall with double force in grim Whitehall;  
Convert first all officials high, or much I fear that early I  
Shall have the whole week to myself, with scarcely any store of pelf;  
Such noble and inspiring creeds a host of persecutors breeds.

\* \* \*

It will be interesting to watch the results of the Postmaster-General's new scheme of "home safes," or glorified money-boxes, from which the money cannot be withdrawn unless taken to the nearest post-office, where the key is to be kept.

\* \* \*

The announcement of Mr. Herbert Samuel, the British Postmaster-General, that female telegraph messengers are shortly to be introduced, with a view to gradually superseding the boy staff, has caused a good deal of surprise. The official reason given for the change is that the Department hopes to abolish in this way the evil which arises from the system which makes it necessary

to dismiss the lads when they attain the age limit. But what about the girls? Are they to be turned adrift at an awkward age? Not a bit of it! The authorities have taken a more lenient and sympathetic view of their prospects in life, and will transfer them to higher and permanent positions as the vacancies occur. But could not this system have been adopted with regard to the boys? It is further announced that the experiment is to be made in some of the smaller provincial towns before it is introduced into London.

\* \* \*

The women are out for superannuations in the United States. The wife of a civil employee writing to *The Washington Herald* says: If it is right to retire the naval and military employee, who in these days of peace see little war, and who have not received disability nor wound, then it is just to retire civil employees with pay from the same fund."

\* \* \*

The *Chicago Record-Herald* lets off the following blast for civil servants:

"In these days of anti-tuberculosis campaigns, of housing reform, of aggressive health boards and national health bureau movements, the government cannot afford to lay itself open to the reproach of lagging behind private employers and municipalities. As a great employer of labor it should set an example — not of waste and reckless generosity at the expense of taxpayers — but of justice, proper regard for the health, reasonable comfort and superannuation of its employees. It can be just and yet save money, ployes. It can be just and yet save money, in pork bills, overmanned departments, sinecures, duplication, circumlocution will not only cover every legitimate demand, but leave a handsome surplus."

\* \* \*

Collier's of June 4 tells the following as a true story. Is it?

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, when he had charge of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, arrived at the office one morning at 10.15. The clerical staff was supposed to be on hand at 10 o'clock, and, to make that certain, they each morning signed a book, setting forth the exact time of their arrival. This morning, just as he turned into the corridor, Sir Hibbert saw a clerk sign the register and disappear into his office. The Minister glanced at the open page, and entered his room. Within two minutes his bell rang.

"Send Mr. So-and-so to me," said Sir Hibbert to the messenger.

In a moment the clerk entered.

"Mr. So-and-so, you signed the register this morning?"

"Yes, Sir Hibbert."

"And you signed it as arriving at 9.45?"

"Yes, sir," answered the trembling clerk.

"The true hour was 10.15. You are dis-

missed from the service. I will have no liars around me."

And out into the cold world the unlucky clerk went.

\* \* \*

The recent decision of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company to devise a system of old age pensions for employees long in the service is in line with the best British industrial model, where old age company pensions are far more general than in this country. And, after all, a man who works for a firm during the best years of his life and put his best efforts into the work, has a moral right — and may some day have a legal one — to receive yearly a fraction of his full salary from that firm, in the days when his usefulness is mostly past.

—Ottawa Journal.

\* \* \*

"Snap" has received the following:

Dear Sir,—

With reference to your column of May 20th, where the literary beauty of the official language in Quebec is referred to, perhaps the enclosed will interest you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. F. WHITLEY.

The enclosure is an extract from the regulations as to the grading of cheese, which reads as follows:

"All cheese that are sour, bad stinkers or spongy, or having other defects as bad or worse than these will be classified as culls."

\* \* \*

A "daylight saving" scheme has been adopted in several government offices in Great Britain, where work is begun an hour earlier in the summer months. The Home Office, the General Post Office, and the Local Government Board are among the offices where the scheme is in operation. In every instance the early attendance is voluntary, the choice of working from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the regulation hours, being offered to the clerical staffs at the beginning of the summer. There is no compulsion, but once the choice is made adherence to it is required. From September to May the old hours are kept — from May to September the "daylight savers" rush home at four o'clock, snatch a light meal and have the rest of the sunlit hours for tennis, boating, gardening or whatever outdoor pastime they prefer.

\* \* \*

An illustration of the spread of the civil service reform idea in strange lands is found in the action of the Salt Lake City authorities, who have recently provided for the selection of janitors of the school buildings through competition. The examinations are to be practical in nature, covering such matters as ventilation, management of heating apparatus, etc. Although the examinations are to be held by the appointing authority,

this departure shows the attraction of the civil service movement.

\* \* \*

Mr. Haldane, the British Secretary of War, is an inveterate smoker of cigars. A little while ago he was walking along Whitehall smoking. Just as he turned into the War office he became aware that smoking is against the rules of Government offices. He threw the cigar down, much to the delight of a sandwichman, who resumed the smoking not knowing who his generous benefactor was.

\* \* \*

The general condition of affairs in Australia has been exceedingly prosperous of late, industry being in generally satisfactory condition. In view of this, the Hon. G. C. Wade, K.C., the prime minister, has issued an order raising the salary of the lower grades of the civil service.

\* \* \*

The following caustic criticism appears in the San Francisco Argonaut:—"Robert S. Sharp of Nashville, Tennessee, is the new chief of postoffice inspectors. Through the men under him he appears periodically and unexpectedly in the most remote little offices, counts cash, stamps, postoffice orders, and if the postoffice hasn't got a sign he wants to know why."

\* \* \*

King George, as is well known, is an ardent philatelist and is credited with having himself designed one of our Canadian stamps. In Great Britain much dissatisfaction has been expressed with the commonplace design of the stamps. "Our colonies," says a writer in the press, "in this respect are far in advance of the Mother Country, and the postage-stamps of New Zealand are, in a number of cases, pictorial reproductions of some of the beauty spots of those volcanic islands. Why not reproduce the beauty spots of the islands of the Homeland on our postage-stamps? If this were done, I venture to say it would be a revelation to the slum-dwellers of our large cities, who can have no conception of the many delightful areas with which their country abounds, because their horizon does not extend beyond, and their vision cannot penetrate the bricks and mortar, dirt, and filth of their surroundings. Philatelists who desire to witness a revolution in the designs of our postage-stamps have every reason to be hopeful for the future, seeing that his present Majesty is an enthusiastic collector."

### Forest Philosophy.

Cheer up! All the good people didn't die young. Lots of them live to a ripe old age and die poor.

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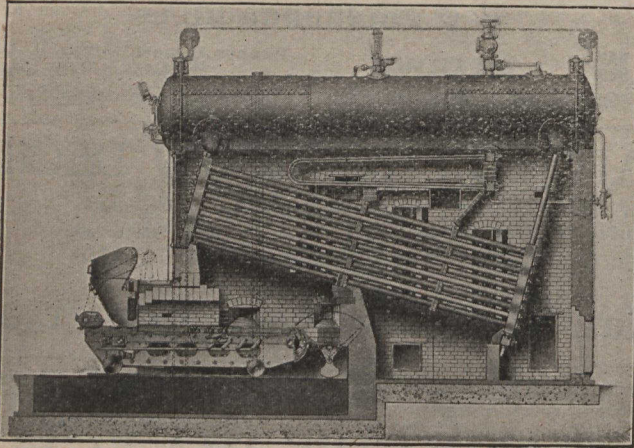
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## How to Pension Yourself.

From *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Fifty dollars put into a savings bank each year will amount to the following sums at the end of twenty years: at three per cent. it will aggregate \$1,383.38; at three and a half per cent. it will roll up \$1,463.42; at four per cent. it will amount to \$1,548.46; while at five per cent. it will mean a total of \$1,735.96.

This figuring out of compound interest returns might be continued indefinitely. Suffice it, however, to show two very important things that the average man or woman who wants to attain a competency must bear in mind, and they are: first, that money will earn more money; second, that the only way to share the results of this kind of labor is to begin to save and then keep constantly at it.

It might be helpful, in this connection, to see some practical applications of the benefits of compound interest and saving. One of them is what might be called an automatic pension. It has been calculated that if a man whose income remains the same year after year will deposit one-third of that income each month in a savings bank that pays four per cent., he will be able to retire at the end of thirty-five years, and thereafter he or his heirs will receive the full amount of his income. If he will steadily deposit a quarter of his income in the same way he will be able to retire on full pay at the end of forty-one years. A fifth of his income, saved and deposited in this way, will enable him to stop work on full income saved at the end of forty-six years, while a deposit of his income will retire him at the end of sixty years.

To be able to retire on half income as a result of this kind of steady saving is easier. This can be achiev-

ed in twenty-four years by the deposit of one-third of the wages in a savings bank each month; in twenty-eight years by the deposit of one-fourth of the wages; in thirty-two years by the deposit of one-fifth of the income, and in forty-five years by the steady saving of one-tenth of the wages.

The Bureau of Navigation, at Washington, has worked out an interesting lesson in saving and compound interest as an inducement to men to enter the navy. The calculation is based on the supposition that the man will remain in the naval service for thirty years. This means that he must enter when he is eighteen and leave, by legal retirement, when he is forty-eight. It is expected that he will have enough ability to become a petty officer at the end of four years of service and a chief officer at the close of eight years.

By his calculation the statisticians figure out that, if a sailor saves half of what he earns and puts it into a savings bank that pays four per cent. interest, he will have coming to him at the end of the thirty years of Government service exactly \$23,923. He may then retire on three-fourths pay for the rest of his life, which means that the United States Government will pay him \$1,163.28 each year as long as he lives. The income from what he has saved, together with his retired pay, will give him a total yearly income of about \$2,000. He can supplement this income by whatever wage he may choose to earn, for there is no bar on his taking a position in civil life. The saving conditions just enumerated are, of course, ideal, but they serve to emphasize the point that it is only by steady and systematic saving that you can get the full results of compound interest.

### *Athletics.*

With midsummer just past, every outdoor sport is booming throughout Canada. The national game of lacrosse has experienced some vigorous (to say the least) contests both in the East and on the Pacific slope within the past fortnight. The French-Canadian "Nationals" of Montreal bid fair to be this year's champions of the National Association, while last year's winners have been seen journeying away to New Westminster in the vain endeavour to wrest the World's Championship in the shape of the Minto Cup, now held by the redoubtable team on the banks of the Fraser River.

It is to be regretted that recent lacrosse matches throughout Canada have been characterized by intense roughness, — even brutality. The press, which has long winked at this abuse of our great Canadian game, has at last begun to raise its voice in no uncertain manner against these practices, and such papers as the Montreal "Gazette" and "Star," the Toronto "Telegram" and the Ottawa "Journal" are taking strong ground on the subject. We are very much inclined to agree with Mr. Robertson, of the "Telegram," when he says that lacrosse will never get back to the high standard of play of ten years ago until it is confined strictly to amateurs. We can hardly conceive that Lord Minto, in donating the cup, ever contemplated that such barbarity would be manifested in its contests,—or for that matter, that it would be played for by professionals at all.

In the good old game of cricket Canada has been represented by two elevens on tour in Great Britain and the States. The Canadian Zingari team, largely composed of Toronto players, has been doing splendid work in England lately, winning against such clubs as the Gentlemen of Surrey, Gentlemen of Sussex, and the United States team,

while an Ottawa eleven, aided by two or three Montreal players, has been having a strenuous time on the American side. Up to date luck has been against them, but we hope for better things. While this team has been afield, the 'stay-at-homes' have been given battle by the Civil Service team, according to the following report of a game sent in for publication:

"The cricketers of the service in Ottawa had a very pleasant afternoon on Saturday last at the grounds of the Ottawa Cricket Club. An eleven from the service met a team of Ottawa Club cricketers. The game was a happy reminder of the days when the service had such a prosperous league of its own. The service team was composed of the following:—Messrs. Foulis, Raby, Turton, Wattsford, Brown, Welsby, Smith, Corrogal, Woodill, King, Grierson and Ward. The Ottawa Club included such well-known service players as Messrs. Steele, Boville, Godfrey Pereira, Fraser and Crowdy. The score was: Service, 60 runs; Ottawa Club, 57."

Cricket is a grand game and will never die out among the Anglo-Saxon race. There should be more civil service matches. What is wanted in Ottawa is a good professional coach from the Old Country to bring on the younger element, as well as the old.

Rowing received a great impetus throughout Canada this year by the notable victory of the Winnipeg Four at the Henley Regatta. The local clubs in the vicinity of Ottawa have been hard at work trying out their crews preparatory to the big Meets. A very interesting contest recently was that between the junior fours of Britannia and the Ottawa R. C. for the Dickson Cup, the former winning by three lengths. The Brits. are now going to enter two crews in the great Regatta at St. Catharines next month.

In canoeing circles three out of the four local clubs, viz.: Britannia, Ri-



deau and New Edinburgh, have had most successful meets, the latter club winning the greater number of events.

The championship of Canada Lawn Tennis Tournament has come and gone, and the winner this year is again Captain Foulkes of the civil service.

Captain Foulkes is a worthy example for our younger athletes to emulate. It is doubtful if there is another tennis player on the continent who could have put up the game played by him at the tourney when considerably past the forty year mark. It is not generally known that Capt. Foulkes rose from a sick bed to go to Montreal. The service is proud of him.

In local baseball, excitement is at high pitch, for at least three of the teams have about equal chances. One can see excellent ball played at these contests, and a nine picked from our city could unquestionably put up a very strong argument with amateur clubs in any of the Canadian cities. We still regret that the civil service did not enter a team in this series.

The civil service lawn-bowlers played the Vittoria Club on Saturday afternoon on the grounds of the latter. The result was a score of 125 to 82 in favour of the Vittorias. That the service was in the minority was not an unexpected issue of the meeting. Nearly all the Vittoria players are experienced bowlers, the greater number having learned the game in the Civil Service League. The service players are, on the contrary, nearly all novices except a few old standbys such as Messrs. Lindsay and Hoey, who played with the old club. The service bowlers will make a better record before the season is over.

## KING GEORGE'S PERQUISITES.

### Curious Ancient Rights that are Bartered for the "Civil List."

The king's recent message to Parliament asking that renewed provision be made for the civil list announces that "his majesty places unreservedly at the disposal of the House those hereditary revenues of the crown which were so placed by his predecessors." This will revive interest in the perquisites which the king foregoes in this purely commercial transaction. If the king preferred the casual and uncertain process of replenishing the crown coffers by means of his royal perquisites instead of troubling Parliament, he could constitutionally command the exercise of numerous ancient customs for the purpose of supplying his financial needs.

There is, for instance, the ancient right of the king to all gold and silver mines, not only on his own land, but also upon any lands belonging to his subjects within his dominions. As the British empire last year produced about \$400,000,000 in gold and silver, the exercise of this one ancient right alone would perhaps suffice.

Another right which a sovereign in quest of funds might make operative is that which applies to the appropriation of "waifs and strays." Waif, in strictly legal definition, means "such stolen goods as are thrown away by the thief in his flight for fear of being apprehended."

These "are due to the king as a punishment upon the holder for not himself pursuing the felon and taking the goods away from him. Wherefore if a person, being robbed, is diligent and immediately follows and brings the thief (which is called fresh suit), or do prosecute him to conviction, he shall have his goods again. Also if the person robbed can retake the goods before they are seized for the crown, if at a distance

of 20 years the crown shall have not them."

The sale of estrays is said to have been a profitable perquisite at one time. "Estrays mean all kinds of animals except dogs, cats, bears and wolves, which may be found wandering on the king's highway. Such estrays must be proclaimed in a church and in two market towns close adjoining the place where they were found, and then if they have no claimants they become the property of the king or his grantee at the end of a year and a day."

Originally the queen consorts of England derived their revenue from certain rents exclusively appropriated to them out of demesne lands of the crown, and the contributors were required to pay for specific royal needs. Thus it was the duty of one taxpayer to pay for the queen's wool, another purchased oil for her lamp, a third bought attire for her head and feet, and so on through the long list of queenly requisites.

Queen gold was another form of tribute to his majesty's consort and "was derived from a percentage of all moneys paid to the king in respect of any privilege, grant, license, pardon or other royal favor."

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### THE SUPERANNUATION FIGHT ACROSS THE BORDER.

A petition for the passage of a law to retire superannuated civil service employees has recently been presented to the United States Congress, signed by about 16,000 employees in the executive department of the District of Columbia, and over 5,000 employees outside of Washington. The petition urges "a retirement law based on an equitable contributory plan, such law to provide for an adequate retiring allowance, based on average salary and length of service, and for the return of contributions with interest to persons leaving the service before reaching the age limit, or to their legal re-

presentatives in case of death." Opposition is expressed to civil pensions paid wholly out of public funds, because such a system results in an underpaid force and gives benefits to only a few at the expense of many.

The petition has the sanction of President Taft and his cabinet.

The need of a retirement plan has been brought particularly to public notice by the recent discharge for reasons of economy of a large number of aged employees, especially in the Treasury department. The hardship of those dismissed, who, it appears, have not provided for their old age, has received considerable comment in the newspapers. Secretary MacVeagh, speaking of the situation, said: "We must have a civil service retirement law, and I am convinced that the only feasible plan is that by which the civil servants shall themselves contribute something toward the retirement fund, the United States Treasury making up what deficiency may be needed."

In opposition to the contributory scheme, another petition is being circulated, favoring an out-and-out civil pension plan. The agitation for this idea is backed largely by the postal employees and is in direct charge of E. J. Cantwell, the paid secretary at Washington of the postal employees associations.

The Gillett bill, which embodies a contributory plan similar to the one suggested in the petition of the departmental employees, and which was favorably reported by the committee on reform in the civil service, was not reached in the closing hours of the last session, and consequently went over.

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Minister—And how did Noah spend his time in the ark?

Small Boy—Fushin'.

Minister—A verra reasonable suggestion, my laddie.

Small Boy (guardedly)—But he wouldna catch muckle.

Minister (surprised)—What makes ye think that?

Small Boy (knowingly)—Because, ye see, he had only twa wir—r—ms.—The Sketch.