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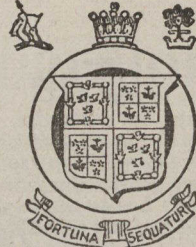
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# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. V.

DECEMBER 13, 1912.

No. 17

## \* Patronage in the Service of Great Britain and Ireland

BY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

The Average Civil Servant is Disgusted to find that, no Matter how Capable and Industrious he may be, the Door to the best Appointments is Banged in his Face. Why? Simply because the "Plums" of the Service are Reserved for men with friends in High Places, Irrespective of Ability. A Royal Commission is Enquiring—with the haste for which Royal Commissions are noted—into the methods by which the best Civil Service posts are filled, and will Report in a year or two. Meanwhile, "The London Magazine" has conducted an enquiry of its own, with the Result Printed Below.

The late John Bright once said that the public service was a gigantic system of outdoor relief for the sons of the aristocracy. Sixty years ago the scandal of filling the superior posts in the public service by the incompetent sons of people with political influence, and the lower posts with the sons of butlers and gamekeepers, had become so grave, and the inefficiency of the service had become so serious, that an enquiry was instituted into the whole internal conditions of the State Departments.

This committee reported that the system of patronage by which the posts in the public service had up to that time been universally filled had resulted in filling the government offices with unambitious, indolent and incapable men, who had been put there because they had not the ability to succeed in the open professions where they would have to encounter the competition of their contemporaries, or because they were too indolent of temperament for active exertion. The system of patronage was used to put such men into well-paid government posts, where they obtained a comfortable

livelihood with very little labour and with no risk.

The outcome of this enquiry was the partial adoption of the system of open competition, which has been gradually extended until to-day the majority of the posts in the public service are filled as the result of competitive examinations at which all persons within certain limits of age may sit. But privilege is hard to kill, and the privileged classes have been loth to part with the privilege of putting their friends into snug government berths.

### "Open Competition" a Mere Farce

Though the majority of the posts in the Civil Service are now filled by open competition, it is not the fact, by any means, that the public service has become a democratic institution, and that merit and good work are the qualities which ensure success and advancement. Those

\*The *Civilian* has dealt in previous articles with "Patronage" in the Canadian and United States services. As indicated in the last number, some of the conditions in the service of Great Britain and Ireland are herewith presented to *Civilian* readers. Hereafter the Editors will deal with the whole question editorially.

who have had the arrangement of the methods by which the system of competitive examinations is carried out have succeeded very well in retaining all the well-paid posts for the young men who belong to the higher social class, and who have the hall-mark of superior breeding which is associated with an education at a public school and at one of the older universities.

The public service generally is divided into two classes, the higher division and the second division. The bulk of the men in the government offices belong to one or other of these grades. There are exceptions, which in the aggregate make a large class, such as the various grades of the post office and the revenue departments. Many departments have still retained a considerable amount of patronage, and many posts in the public service are still filled by nomination, that is by the political or permanent head of the department. We shall have more to say of this later, but for the moment we will deal with the main division of the Civil Service into a higher and a lower grade, each filled by open competitive examination.

The reason given for this division is that the work of the government offices can be conveniently divided into two grades, the first grade being administrative work dealing with matters of public policy, and the second grade being merely routine and ordinary clerical work. Though there may be some reason in fact for such a distinction, it is nevertheless true that this division in actual practice operates to set up an almost impassable barrier between the university men and those who enter by the second division examination.

#### **Snug Berths for the Well-to-do.**

The higher division clerks enter by the class I open examination, which is so framed that only men who have passed through a public

school and have then proceeded to Oxford or Cambridge can hope to be successful. The very few exceptions to that statement prove its truth. Between 1906 and 1910 there were 473 candidates successful in the Class I examination, and of these 247 had come from Oxford and 142 from Cambridge. The scheme of examination for the Class I has been deliberately framed so as to give an advantage to the candidate from Oxford or Cambridge. This system is openly defended on the ground that for the higher posts in the Civil Services it is necessary that men should feel that confidence and self-assurance which come from the knowledge that one belongs to a superior caste and has had an education which marks one off as select.

Though the higher posts in the Civil Service are nominally filled by open competition, the real fact is that the system by which they are filled makes these appointments the monopoly of the well-to-do classes almost as exclusively as if they were pure patronage appointments.

#### **Experience takes a Back Seat.**

The young man from the university who succeeds in passing the class I examination enters a government office with the assurance that, no matter what his ability for administration may be, he is from the first to be placed in authority over men of experience and long service who happened to enter by a lower examination. The possession of an academic education is accepted as being the supreme qualification for administrative work. Though the young class I man has never had a day's experience of business before entering the government office, he is from the first day put to do work which can only efficiently be done by men who have had long experience of the work of the department. The fact is that this young university man is taught his duties by the despised second division man, who

whatever his ability and practical knowledge, can hardly hope ever to pass the class barrier which separates the two grades.

In order to provide for a larger number of these university men, the number of higher division posts in the public service is altogether in excess of the actual requirements. The amount of work in any government office which can be called administrative, that is work which requires decisions on important matters of policy, is very small. The result is that many of these class I men are doing work similar to that done by the second division, but of course at salaries often many times as high. In other cases higher division clerks are simply employed in going through work which other clerks have already passed, and it is no uncommon thing for a document to be passed by half-a-dozen clerks without any alteration whatever being made.

#### Why this Difference of £130?

The class I clerk has seldom to wait long for promotion to some post carrying a large increase of salary. The second division clerk, who is really doing the necessary work of the office, has to proceed by small annual increments of salary from a beginning at £70. But the young man who comes straight from the university starts at £200, and he is a dismal failure indeed if he is not getting much more than double that in two or three years' time.

Instances are as common as leaves in autumn of men in this select class jumping £300 to £500 a year at one step after a very few years' service. A young man with three years' service, then receiving a salary of £260, was recently transferred to another office, to a post just made, at £500 a year. Immediately after, he married the daughter of a highly-placed public official.

A few other instances may be given to show the way in which for-

tune favours these young men who enter the Civil Service with the advantage of belonging to the exclusive set. The treasury is a small department. Out of twenty-six higher division clerks serving in that office, no fewer than fifteen have within the last eight years had special promotion, and in every case the promotion sent up the salary at one step by about £400 a year. One of these, by no means an exceptional case, is that of a young man of invariably immaculate attire, with the most perfect Oxford manner and indispensable monocle, who entered the service about thirteen years ago. Commencing at £200 a year, in six years he had reached £320. He was then promoted to a post carrying a salary of £700, rising to £900. Later he was advanced to another post, and his present salary is £1,150.

#### £1,000 a Year at Twenty-six.

Mr. John Burns had a private secretary for some time in the early years of his tenure at the local government board. Mr. Burns appointed this clerk to be an assistant secretary to the board at a salary of £1,000 a year, rising to £1,200. A young higher division clerk was recently private secretary to the chairman of the board of Inland Revenue, and in seven years his salary rose from £200 to £800, with further advances to £1,000. One of the Prime Minister's private secretaries has been appointed at the age of twenty-six to be a Commissioner of Taxes, a post worth £1,000 a year. Taking fifteen instances of higher division clerks at random it is found that the average age at present is thirty-five, and the average length of service is eleven and a half years, and the average salary is £793.

If these clerks had followed the scale increment of salary the average salary would be £440 a year instead of £793. That is to say, ways and means have been found to give these favoured individuals promo-

tions which have practically doubled the salaries they would have been receiving by advances in the normal way.

There is supposed to be a chance for the promotion of the second division clerk to the higher division, but in practice this chance is very remote. There are over 3,000 second division clerks serving in government offices, and in the last eighteen years there have been seventy-three promotions, and these have been confined to a small number of offices. Good care is taken that the pickings at the top are preserved for the superior caste.

#### **Prizes First: The Race Afterwards.**

This is disastrous to the efficiency of the public service. The second division man of great natural ability, who did not go to a university because his parents were too poor to afford it, is kept with his nose to the grindstone through all the years of his service, while the university clerk, whatever his capacity may be, is from the first marked out for advancement to the higher posts. The prizes of the public service are distributed at the beginning instead of at the end of the race. The Civil Service at present exists to provide careers for Oxford and Cambridge men.

Another development is going on just now which has for its purpose the use of the Civil Service to find posts for life for boys from the public schools who are not going forward to the university. An intermediate class has been established, and the examination scheme has been framed so as to give an advantage to the public school boy similar to that which is given to the Oxford and Cambridge men in the class I examination. This grade was formed after a conference with the headmasters of the public schools. But these people had evidently underestimated the character of the education which is being given in the

secondary schools. A large number of the posts have been taken by secondary school boys.

#### **Handicapping the Secondary School**

In January last another conference was held with the headmasters of public schools, and the outcome is that after next year the syllabus of examination is to be altered so as to make it more difficult for the secondary school boy to succeed. Certain subjects, such as chemistry and physics, are to be taken out of the syllabus, and a great advantage is to be given to youths who take Latin and Greek, which are the favourite subjects at the public schools.

It is quite plain that the treasury and Civil Service Commissioners have devised this intermediate grade so that every well-paid post in the public service may be the monopoly of the class who can send their boys to a public school or to one of the older universities. The reason given by the treasury for the institution of this intermediate grade is that some of the work previously done by the higher division was "disagreeable," as it involved the arduous labour of adding up figures and making calculations.

It will be seen from the statements already made that though the system of open competition is supposed to regulate entrance into most of the government offices, yet, as a matter of actual fact, the best posts in the public service are still largely the monopoly of the "best families." This applies to other posts in the public service to an even greater extent.

A very large number of well-paid posts in the public service are filled by nomination, and the candidate appointed is not required to pass any examination. All the higher posts in the board of education and the board of agriculture are filled in this way. This system of nomination to the higher posts has manag-

ed to make these two departments quite like family gatherings.

A recent appointment to a post by patronage, and without any examination or competition, was that of the son of the assistant secretary to the board of agriculture and fisheries. No public notification of the vacancy was made, and no other person, however, well qualified, was given an opportunity of applying for this post, which was given to the son of one of the principal officials in the same office.

The board of education has never been reformed at all in so far as all its higher posts are concerned. It is a happy hunting-ground for the person who wants a back-door entrance into the public service. The posts in the education office which correspond to the class I posts in other offices are filled by nomination, and the candidates are not required to pass any examination at all. They are taken on their "records." Though these posts are secured without examination or competition, the salaries are better than the class I posts. They begin at £250, and rise by annual increments without a break to £600. The fortunate individual who can get the president to put him into one of these billets has not long to wait, as a rule, for something more than £600 a year. The number of assistant secretaryships, with salaries of £1,000 and upwards, bears a high proportion to the subordinate posts.

The board of education appears to have a strong partiality for men who have been to Winchester school, and to New College, Oxford. From this public school and this university college have come the late secretary and the present secretary, the late accountant-general, the chief clerk, the present accountant-general and the late legal adviser.

This system of patronage in the board of education has led to many cases of notorious jobbery. A very few years ago a minister of educa-

tion appointed his step-son to the post of examiner, but for reasons which need not be mentioned he resigned at the end of the probationary period. The son-in-law of another cabinet minister was appointed to a similar post shortly after his father-in-law became a minister, though this man was about fifty years of age at the time of his appointment. He is no longer in the service.

The son of a secretary to the treasury was appointed to one of these patronage posts. This young man was soon after given the post of Commissioner of Customs and Excise, though only thirty-one years of age, and without any experience in the department to which he was appointed. This post is worth £1,200 a year—not a bad billet for a young man of thirty-one who has passed no examination to obtain it.

The higher posts in connection with the Labour Exchanges and the Insurance Act have been filled by nomination. The appointments to the higher posts under the Labour Exchanges Act have been notorious instances of the use of patronage to reward political supporters, and persons with friends in the service. One man was given a post of £500 a year, though he had failed at an examination for the second division of the service. He was the son of a board of trade official. An army officer, the brother of a former secretary to the treasury, was appointed to a post of considerable value.

It does not necessarily follow that all these appointments by nomination, and promotions by favouritism, could not be justified by the ability of the individual in question. In many cases, no doubt, the men have been appointed as much because of their ability as because they had friends at court. But it is not always so.

Nobody can be aware of what has been and is being done in the public service without knowing that fav-



ouritism is rampant, that political ministers often use their patronage to reward their political friends, and that the whole service is dominated by a spirit of class exclusiveness which keeps all the well-paid posts in the enjoyment of a certain social caste, and that the efficiency of the public service suffers enormously by this virtual monopoly.

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## TALES THAT ARE TOLD.

### No. I.

Jedediah Spoopendyke, second-deputy-assistant supernumerary in the Tape & Sealing-Wax Department, came into the service in 1910 and has had two years experience of trying to live in champagne style on a ginger-ale salary,—i.e. \$800, less five per cent. Jed is a full-fledged member of the Grouch Club and seconded the resolution that there is no "sham" about the "pain" in their situation.

Jed gets the usual three weeks' vacation each year and the first of these periods of relaxation which came to him was the most painful period of his existence,—for Jed was "broke." His borrowing-powers were exhausted and interest was accruing on his board-bill, yet Jed had to have a summer trip in keeping with the dignity of his official and social position.

Jed sailed from the Grand Trunk station on the Montreal train and a bevy of Britannia girls waved him a sorrowful farewell from the platform. They had visions of Jed at Kennebunkport and Old Orchard and of other belles who would sit with him on the sands in the moonlight and wear his roses at the Saturday night hops. Poor girls! Poor Jed!

But Jed didn't get to Newport:—he didn't get to Montreal. He dropped off the train at Eastman and spent three strenuous weeks on

a log-fenced farm in a sheltered nook of the hills beyond the range of Boy Scouts and off the automobile routes. He returned to Ottawa with a beautiful "salt air" tan (acquired by pitching hay for six hours, on a salt pork breakfast), hands calloused by long pulls at the "oars" (pitch-fork handles), and a splendid repertoire of sea-side gossip (culled from a specially-ordered consignment of New York Sunday "yellows").

Jed was no mean romancer in those days and he had never heard of Ananias, but the strain upon his imaginative ability, when he was in the company of the "just too lovely" sort, was terrific, and poor Jed resolved to turn over a new leaf.

He did. This Summer Jed really went to the coast. He didn't register at the St. Reckless-by-the-Rollers nor was he the host at any ten-dollars-a-plate clambakes, but he did get a real sea-beach tan and tells "really, truly" stories since his return.

How did he do it?

Easy! !

The bitterness of his first vacation taught Jed the error of his ways. As soon as he returned to the city he went to F. S. James and purchased a \$5 share in the Civil Service Savings & Loan Society. (It was all he had left from his earnings as a farm-hand after he had paid for his board and for the can of cream he fed to the pigs, thinking it was sour milk.) Then, on each "fifteenth," just as soon as he had cashed his check, he hastened to deposit \$10 with the society. When Vacation-time came round again the neat balance of \$110 and accrued interest afforded him the means of making come true all those fables of yester-year.

Moral—Go thou and do likewise.

### No. 2.

Three dollars and ninety-five and five-sixths cents.

What is this?

This is the annual increment of a Civil Servant's monthly salary.

Is he sure to get it?

No.

Why?

He may be at his "maximum," or his Deputy Minister may be offended at his taste in ties and "hold him up."

If he gets it, can he save it?

No,—for the cost of living is increasing faster than the salary.

Does the law allow a larger increase?

Yes,—on recommendation it could be doubled.

Is this ever done?

No,—the Treasury Board has refused to pass all such recommendations.

Why?

We don't know.

Selah.

No. 3.

This is the tale of Skeggs (to be told in a half-light with slow music in a minor key.)

Skeggs is a Civil Servant. He received an increase in his salary. The increase was supposed to be \$50. But the Government retained five per cent. Then there was \$47.50.

Skeggs was going to do a lot with that \$50,—(beg pardon, \$47.50). He sat up nights planning how to spend it. His expenses were just equal to his salary. But the \$47.50 would be a surplus. He would have some fun. A whole year's fun. On \$47.50.

Skeggs got the increase. He cashed his check. He went to his "apartment." The land-lady met him at the door. "Your rent will be increased \$1 per month. Skeggs was speechless. He went into retirement. He pondered. It was no use. \$47.50 had become \$35.50.

Skeggs was hungry. He went to his boarding-house. The "boarding-

misses" met him. "Board is increased \$3 per month."

Skeggs' appetite vanished. It has not returned. He sits at his desk and figures on his blotter. He has just one little sum. This is it,—

Increased salary		\$47.50
Less increased room-		
rent . . . . .	12.	
Less increased board	.. 36.	48.00
		<hr/>
Deficit . . . . .		.50
Poor Skeggs!		

Comment by an Exchange.

*The Civilian* should be read by O. U. students for more reasons than one. It is the mouth-piece of the Civil Service of Canada, and contains much useful information concerning the activities of the various departments of that important body. It contains, moreover, upon its list of correspondents, a number of writers of no mean attainments. With its G. R., and its Silas Wegg, and a host of other literary lights contributing, the popularity of *The Civilian* is easily understood. Under the caption, "Canada's Fire Brigade," a recent number describes the work of the government fire rangers in our vast forests. An unusually well written article entitled *The Currency Branch of the Finance Department*, should be read by all Canadian students of Economics.—University of Ottawa Review.

Under the direction of Dr. Llewellyn Jordan, the U. S. Civil Service Retirement Association, is taking a poll of the members of the new congress on the question of a superannuation act. From the replies so far received, nine tenths of the new congressmen and senators will endorse any equitable pension measure. Indications are that the plan will be on the contributory basis.

# THE CIVILIAN

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to the Civil Service are invited and will  
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**Ottawa, Dec. 13, 1912**

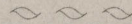
## CHRISTMAS 1912.

As Christmas approaches and to most of us abundance is in store, shall we retire into the introspective seclusion of personal and family contentment, or gaze afar into the depths to enquire if all is well? The cover design of this number (made from a drawing by our talented G. R.) was chosen by the editors for the purpose of arousing sympathies and perhaps aspirations for those less fortunate. There are such boys as here depicted. Why is it so?

Palsied and mummified economists declare that the cure-all for the miserable classes of this compound mass of atoms, called the World, is the fire and the plague. This is not the teaching of the Divine Master Whose birth we are about to celebrate. Eugenics asks us *whence*, Socialism asks us *how*, and the church, which usually asks us *whither*, is joining more and more in the

Socialistic interrogation. "But the greatest of these is Charity."

Yes, so little have we advanced in the thousands of evolutionary eons, that we are reduced to Charity as the only panacea for the sorrows of the times. Until, then, intelligence suggests a more just and more wholesome method, let us indulge our Charity. Give to Salvation Army, to the Ottawa Journal or other avenues for reaching the children, and let us try to love one another, in commemoration of the most gentle and lovable spirit that ever graced with its presence this most humble footstool of God.



## CO-OPERATION FROM COAST TO COAST.

There are not less than twenty-five thousand people in Canada who make their livelihood by giving service in some form to the Dominion government.

Practically every one of these people suffers an injustice from the fact that the prices of commodities are increasing faster than their salaries. To put it in another way: The conditions under which the people of Canada carry on their business, benefit either some or all of the people and injure those engaged in serving the people.

All current discussion goes to prove that our present methods of distribution of commodities have broken down. This is not necessarily a permanent break-down, necessarily the setting up of a new distribution system or plant. The difficulty may be only temporary. But, temporary or permanent, the difficulty exists. It must be met.

Experience has demonstrated that salary increases do not meet the difficulty so far as public servants are concerned. This is mainly because the salary increases do not come. It is true that, here and there, individuals or classes who

have been specially insistent or specially fortunate, find gratifying growth in the figures of their monthly or fortnightly checks. But, even in these cases the salary increase lags sadly behind the increase in the cost of living.

This is not an argument against seeking salary increases. It is only the statement of a fact which everybody will admit, that, though public servants are all victims of the same conditions, the salary-increase method affords no means of saving all equally from those conditions.

In other countries, wonders have been accomplished for the relief of the people by co-operative methods of production and distribution. It is not necessary to dwell upon the facts here. A few such facts are given in a collection of items on this general question appearing on another page, and many others, even more striking and important, are known to every persons who has given any attention to the growth of the co-operative movement.

If twenty-five thousand people undertake to buy fruits, vegetables, dairy produce, clothing and many other things direct from the producers, or, failing that, to produce these things themselves and distribute them among their number, is it likely that they would need to pay the prices now charged by dealers? The story of the seventy-five cent barrel of Ontario apples that got into the hands of a Winnipeg consumer with five dollars added to the price of it is mentioned amongst the facts above referred to. This is an extreme case, of course, but how do we know that there are not even more extreme cases? The Carleton county boy who grew potatoes at ten cents a bushel is also an extreme case. But, if that boy were a man, with others to help him, and with capital to work a complete modern potato-growing plant, could not he better that ten cents a bushel? All the competitors for prizes in potato-

growing produced potatoes free from rot. Is there any sense in Ontario people being called upon to pay high prices for potatoes because the tubers not only in whole fields, but in whole districts have so rotted as to be not worth digging?

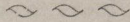
The moral of it all is that we need the big co-operative movement for those engaged in the public service.

There is no place in the Dominion—as there is no place in the civilized world—that does not suffer from the evils here complained of. Perhaps the West is worst off. The West is so prosperous that it “pays up and looks pleasant” when prices rise. Very grand, that; but it is not business. Those engaged in the civil service in Victoria, Vancouver and other cities of British Columbia should form local co-operative societies for their own protection. In the Prairie Provinces the evil of high prices is not quite so burdensome. But the burden would be greatly relieved if those in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg and other cities would organize for mutual protection by means of co-operation. And in the East, in Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax, Charlottetown and elsewhere, it ought to be easily possible for those who are in the same boat as to source of salary, and as to suffering exploitation for the benefit of dealers in commodities, to get together for their common good.

One beauty of this co-operative movement is that it can be started anywhere and by anybody. For big operations a big organization is needed, of course. But a man finding himself robbed by his dealer on the price of butter, for instance, can make a co-operative society with some neighbors who are similarly robbed and, with an invested capital of two cents for a postage stamp, can send to some friend in the country for butter for the co-

operators. From these efforts to the millions of invested capital, the great factories, the Ceylon tea gardens, the fleets of ships, and all the other machinery of the great co-operative societies of Britain is a long step.

But this British movement, in the beginning was the work of a few poor and ignorant working people. With twenty-five thousand of intelligent men and women as a nucleus for the movement, in Canada, with the experience of other co-operators to guide us, and with the assistance of the British societies to open for us the fields of production of all the world,—with all these advantages, can the public servants of Canada not do something to overcome the difficulties with which they are confronted?



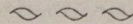
#### THE MESSENGERS' CASE.

—

The organized messenger staff of the Ottawa service are contemplating the plan of presenting to the Premier a re-affirmation of their memorial of a year ago, in which the increased cost of living was made the basis of a change in their salary scale. The request is made for an increase from the present maximum of \$800 to \$1,100. The messengers, of course participated in the flat increase of 1908, though many were too near the maximum to benefit to the full. This \$150 was sadly inadequate to meet the accumulation of debts, which like a snowball has been rolling up an insupportable load for this class of the government staff. It is well known that many of them leave their homes every night and seek special employment in order to try to square the butcher. The messengers will surely receive the support of the Ottawa association in pressing their claims before the government. Especially should the influential Third Division give its sup-

port to the messengers' claim for sufficient of the wherewithal to feed and clothe the bodies of their families and to educate the little ones, for an increase of \$300 would follow in the case of the maximum of that important division.

It seems to us that the associations representing the service before the government are unduly diffident and modest in this matter of paralleling the increases in the simple and vital necessities of life. Undoubtedly it is embarrassing to seem to be always asking for more pay, but there is nothing else for it. It does not matter so much whether the government takes the means to control the market price of necessities or whether they make commensurate provision by increasing the salaries. No just government will refuse to entertain one or the other proposition. One important effect of a recurring agitation for a uniformity in the basis of "cost" and "pay," will be to impress indelibly upon the minds of the members of the government that there is a combination of men or things existing somewhere or somehow in constant conspiracy against the welfare of the salaried class to which all civil servants belong.

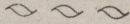


#### SATURDAY NIGHT.

—

*Saturday Night* has replied to our criticism of a month ago relative to its insolent attitude towards the service of Canada. So grievously are the editors of that journal affected by the strictly moralistic sermon we then preached to them, that one line is devoted to an acknowledgment of same and then their observations sky-rocket off at a tangent (the occasion is one for mixed metaphors) to an attack upon one of our departments. *Saturday Night* should know that *The Civilian*, for reasons well understood, cannot enter into the discussion

which it invites. Having wantonly assaulted the dummy in the game of civil administration, it returns to a swashbuckling attack upon the Insurance Department. *Saturday Night* asks us certain questions but the catechism may more properly emanate from this end. Did *Saturday Night* during the past year, make a single attempt to glean from the one place where authoritative information can be obtained, the full story of the life and death of the Canadian Guardian Life Insurance Co.? or do its editors prefer a swashbuckling notoriety for yellow sensationalism rather than a more modest but less commercial reputation for performing a public service? Good Night, *Saturday Night*.



#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

*The Civilian* has received an anonymous letter, which the Editors will be glad to publish if the writer will favour us with his name.

A number of letters have reached *The Civilian* mail box from friends at far away points in Canada drawing attention to the general standards of salary in the service and the need of adequate remedial measures to improve conditions.

*The Civilian* acknowledges with appreciation the receipt from the Superintendent of Immigration of a beautifully illustrated pamphlet advertising the advantages of farming in "Old Ontario." There has also come to hand the regular bulletin of the International Agricultural Institute and a pamphlet from the Conservation Commission, all valuable government issues.

Wife: "You look worried. Is it because you are so deeply in debt?"  
 Husband: "No, it's because I can't get any deeper!"

#### MR. DOOLEY ON CHRISTMAS.

(P. F. Dunne.)

I wonder who invinted Christmas prisints? I give it up. But whiver it was, I hope some one give him a prisint. When annyone gives me a prisint for Christmas, I owe him that much. And if there's wan thing more than another that makes a man ashamed to look the whole wur-ruld in the face, 'tis debt. Now, be hook or be crook, I avoid debt f'r a year. Then *Christmas* comes along an' I'm plunged into it, whether I want to be 'r not. On Christmas mornin' I come back from early Mass an' I'm owin' half the neighbourhood. I'm in debt twinty Christmas cards, ilivin books iv po'thry, a pink lampshade, a pair iv embroidered slippers, a sponge bag, two boxes iv non-combustible seegars, an' a pound iv broken candy. No matther what me intentions arre, I'm plunged into debt; an', mind ye, not f'r money 'r annything that c'd be exchanged f'r pleasure, but f'r a lot iv articles that no wan in his right sineses w'd think 'v carryin' down stairs if the house tuk fire! If I dont hand somethin' back, I'm in debt f'r a year. Y' cant go around on New Year's Day an' say: Merry Christmas. Here's th' mee-loj'n I owe ye f'r th' music box y' give me.

No, sir. Y've got to be quick on y'r feet. Whin I see a b'y comin' out iv Hogan's with somethin' done up in a pa-aper under his arm, I shoot out another b'y b' th' alley with a token iv affection f'r Hogan, an' watch Hogan make a face whin he gets it. Me guard is always up. I'm niver IT f'r more than a quarter iv an hour. If annywan tags me, I tag right back again. Last Christmas, when I counted up, I found I was a pound iv gumdrops and an umbrelly t' th' good, th' people I sint thim t' bein' unprepared f'r th' attack.

Some wan has always give me a prisint, though no one has anny right t'; but no wan iver give me annything that I c'd eat 'r drink or wear 'r smoke 'r curl me hair with. Whin a good frind iv mine wants t' give me a prisint f'r Christmas, he goes to a *harness shop* an' buys a box iv seegars with burlap wrappers an' excelsior fillins, an' if I smoked wan an' *lived* I'd be arrested f'r arson. Wan Christmas I needed a watch; an' I dreamed watches, an' talked watches to all of me frinds that I knew had designs on me. But th' nearest I come to it was a horse-hair chain that unravelled and made me look as though I'd been curryin' a Shetland pony. I got a pair of hand-painted suspinders fr'm a lady once—niver mind her name—an' I wurruked har-rd that day, an' th' flowers moved back into me systim like a tattoo, an' I had to take thim out with pummy stone. I didn't lose th' taste of th' paint f'r weeks an' weeks.

Th' battle in Christmas prisints isn't aisy t' carry on with a woman. Niver accept a vallyable prisint fr'm a la-ady. Her intintions is niver hon'r'ble whin she sinds ye a frosted card with a pitcher iv a German goin' home in th' snow. She ixpiets a gra-and pianny in rayturn. But among min tis different. Th' minyit a man hur-rls a prisint at ye, fire wan back at him. Hit him with th' first thing ye can lay y'r hands on. Smash him over th' head. Go to a good sale a week before Christmas an' lay in y'r amynition, an' begin pastin' thim at daybreak. Take that! an' that! an' that! Ye hit me with th' Lives iv th' Saints, Mike Slattery, but me Treasury iv Varse caught y' behind th' ear. I'll fight it out on this line till I'm down t' the last awlbum. An' whin th' day is done y'll be a happy man, rejoicin' in th' thought that ye give as good as ye got—'r worse.

That's f'r bachelors, mind ye.

With a married man like meself tis different.

On Christmas mornin' I complete me term iv loonacy with wan grand blitherin' burst iv foolishness. "How thoughtful of ye, Mary Ann, t' give me th' Essays iv Emerson. I was sayin' on'y th' other day, to a frind iv mine, that 'f all iv th' fellyahs that iver hur-rl'd a pin, Emerson's th' wan f'r my money, now that Billy Baxter is dead" . . . "How did ye come to give me this box iv seegars, Mother?" I says. "I'll put thim away where no wan can get at thim," I says. "They're too good t' bur-rn up" . . . "Loocy, smshine iv me life, I know whose little hands painted thim purple flowers on Papah's cup an' saucer," I says. "Th' money I've spint on y'r ar-rt idjagation has not been spint in vain," I says. "I feel ashamed," I says, "surrounded be all thim costly little remimbrances of love," I says, "t' show me palthry gifts," I says. "But," I says, "ye know that ivry dollar put into thim comes right fr'm Papah's heart. Take this sealskin coat, grand pianny an' diamond necklace, an' wear thim f'r my sake." An' with tears in me eyes I go to me room an' thry to figure out a way I can git even without breakin' th' law.

#### Then he had a Fit.

"What is he so angry with you for?"

"I haven't the slightest idea. We met in the street, and we were talking just as friendly as could be. when all of a sudden he flared up and tried to kick me."

"And what were you talking about?"

"Oh, just ordinary small talk. I remember he said, 'I always kiss my wife three or four times every day.'"

"And what did you say?"

"I said, 'I know at least a dozen men who do the same,' and then he had a fit.'"

## At the Sign of the Wooden Leg

By "Silas Wegg."

### Have You Quit Struggling?

A certain old maid of other days, for I heard about her when I was a boy, was asked if old maids were ever happy. "Yes," she replied, "quite happy when they quit struggling." The maiden lady who made the remark is typical of some of us all the time and of all of us some of the time—typical in this respect, that we often find our happiness when we are free of or have given up our ambitions. If we were to follow up all the trails of thought into which this generalization of our text would lead us we would need a good many issues of our paper before we had even broached the subject. It may be well if we restrict ourselves for the present to an application of the text to ordinary civil service work and duties, and ask ourselves the question — Is there a happiness worth while to be found when we quit struggling?

There are two kinds of struggling which we may consider, and these two may go on together, — the struggle for more pay and the struggle for more knowledge. The former is called by some the struggle for existence, and the latter by some the struggle for mastery. We must have bread, and so the very idea of existence is bound up in the endeavour to get a fair wage for our labours. On the other hand man does not live by bread alone. The struggle for mastery,— and let us not define this phrase as the desire to get ahead of our fel-

lows, but rather as the desire to gain control of ourselves,—depends greatly on knowledge. Again let us ask the question—Is there a happiness worth while to be found when we quit struggling?

Dissatisfaction with one's wages is a state of mind of which few are free, and most of us believe that if we were "in the next class" we would be happy. Easy street is always a block away from Grub street however. We get into "the next class" and make a great discovery. It is not "the next class" but the one below the next which we have entered. And so the struggling continues. Some never give up the struggling. They have no ears to hear when their clocks strike twelve, or they have some blind hope that there will be a miracle enacted and the next time the clock strikes it will be thirteen. Such never pass into the state of happiness which the old maid found. Their condition is most pitiable when Desire remains after Hope has fled. But the man who realizes that he has got all that is coming to him, even if that all is short of his deserts, has the first obstacle removed from the attainment of happiness as far as happiness depends on wages. He can feel the comfort, at least, of that later beatitude: "Blessed is he who does not hope for much, for he shall not be disappointed." In addition to this he saves much nerve force which has been heretofore spent in the struggle for salary. The common sort of happiness is a matter of well-adjust-





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ed nerves, and the man who is continually worrying about his pay-check cannot expect to have his nerves in good condition. It is wise to think of one's rate of pay, but the engineer who worries over his coal supply is apt to forget his engine. One thing is certain; he will not enjoy the scenery of the country through which he passes.

We should not conclude, however, because the struggle for more pay demands nerve-force, that we should not do any struggling at all. The consumer will never raise prices, and labour is a commodity placed upon the market by the labourer. We cannot expect the most benevolent buyer, even the government, to put a higher value on our wares than we put on them ourselves. Still I think that the main proposition holds good, that more peace of mind ensues when we quit struggling for pay than when the thirst for gold is upon us.

"Better it is to die, better to starve,  
Than crave the hire which we first  
deserve."

The struggle for knowledge, which we have called also the struggle for mastery, is perhaps a less enduring passion than the struggle for wages, or existence, since the "natural man" can express his creed in the words of Owen Meredith:

"We may live without poetry, music and  
art;  
We may live without conscience, and live  
without heart;  
We may live without friends; we may  
live without books;  
But civilized men cannot live without  
cooks."

It is only by giving a higher definition to the term "life" that we can say that man does not live by bread alone. In the Civil Service those who quit the struggle for knowledge are those who are anxious to get routine work, and here we come upon one of the largest of the internal problems of Civil Ser-

vice life. The temptation to quit struggling, to have a position where the work comes to us and there is no worry about it, to be, in fact, a rubber stamp or an adding machine, this is the temptation to which our natures are apt to succumb. We may disguise the real character of the work under official titles, but, if we have a class of work of which we can say, as some of us are so pleased to say, "Well, I know what I have to do and can lock my desk at night and lock my worries up at the same time," we are dangerously near oldmaidenhood. "I like my position," said a high official to me once; "there are no problems about it." He had come to it after years of attention to detail. It was no graft or pull that had placed him where he was. But he had now quit struggling for more knowledge and his state of mind was no different from that of the man who has learned to seal envelopes and is content with his moistening brush.

There is a happiness of a kind about routine work. It is free of headaches. It is the happiness of the Lotus-eaters, who exclaim:

"Is there any peace  
In ever climbing up the climbing wave?  
Surely, surely, slumber is more sweet than  
toil, the shores,  
Than labor in the deep mid-ocean, wind and  
wave and oar:  
O rest ye, brother mariners, we will not  
wander more."

But I turn the page of the poet's book and I find another view of life, which is the view of those not satisfied with the routine, and I hear Ulysses "speak out loud and bold" in these words:

"How dull it is to pause, to make an end,  
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use!  
As though to breathe were life. . . .  
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.  
Push off, and sitting well in order smite  
The sounding furrows; for my purpose  
holds  
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
Of all the western stars, until I die."

These are the ideals, or the extremes if you will, of life as viewed

by the two classes, the strugglers and the quitters. Into one of these classes we come at last. Some of us may be now a Lotus-eater and now an Ulysses, ready some days to punch an adding machine and on others to use our heads. But sooner or later our type is fixed and we must be graded either as a rubber stamp or as a man.

The thirst for knowledge, however, must not be confounded with what is called vulgar curiosity. A busy mind is not always found in a busybody. The man of curiosity, the quid nunc as he is called, is concerned not with things that he should do but with things that other people are doing. There is the same distinction between curiosity and the zeal for knowledge as there is between jealousy and love. Curiosity and jealousy are restless qualities. Knowledge and love are restful. Ulysses may "follow knowledge like a sinking star" with much tumult at times in his breast, but he has the hope of a goal of calm.

"It may be that the gulfs will wash us down;"

but again,

"It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles  
And see the great Achilles whom we knew."

The trouble is that we often become weary because of our lack of consistency. We grieve because the struggle for knowledge does not yield us the fruits of the struggle for pay. There may be a bag of gold at the end of the rainbow of knowledge, but we must not act like spoiled children if, having started out for the rainbow for the rainbow's own beauty, we do not find the gold on the hillside. A man who gives his youth to the pursuit of ideals has no more right to expect an old age of money-wealth than the man who gives his youth to the pursuit of pleasure. Nor should he envy those who have made their struggles the pursuit of gold. "They have their reward." And he loses his if

he expects to be paid in the coin of the kingdom whose allegiance he in youth foreswore.

## PERSEVERANCE.

By Mrs. H. L. Upton.

One day while I was waiting at the station to take a train, I saw a sparrow busily engaged in selecting material for his nest from the road near by. After the sparrow had borne several pieces to his nest, he spied a very long straw, and tried to carry it by seizing it in the middle. The force of the wind against it was too great for him, so he took it by the end, and flew to the eaves of the platform. In endeavoring to weave the spill into his nest, he forced the half-built nest to the ground. Instantly, he came down, still holding the sprig, to see what he had done. He did not stop to cry, to utter oaths, or even to scold on account of the mishap, but flew back, with his coveted possession, to tell his mate. Both returned, and set busily at work to rebuild the nest. Their manner was not one of anger, impatience, or discouragement; rather they renewed and redoubled their efforts by taking as much of the material as they could carry, at a time, in their little beaks. They were still working, industriously, when I left them.—Dumb Animals.

At Greenwich police court it was alleged that Henry Bennett, a ship's fireman, was a sportsman with novel tastes. According to Detective Harvey, the prisoner and a friend went fishing by night in Dorville Road, Lee. The locality is not on the sea-shore, and no trout-stream is handy, but it is said that the defendant found a substitute for both in the shape of a letter-box. In any case, the limb of the law, on arresting Bennett, discovered the angler's line protruding from the aperture of the pillar-box. The bait used consisted of a sticky substance, but the fisher had not had a nibble before Detective Harvey intervened. The latter seems to have been the only one who had a real bite that evening. His catch was remanded for a week.—Civilian.

## A Song of Christmas



*O, Heart of mine! From the store divine  
Of the memories dear you hold,  
Sing me a song that is sweet and strong  
Of the Christmas Days of old!  
Sing of the eager heart and eye  
As the season of joy drew near;  
And we marked the lessening days go by,  
When the sun rose late in the winter sky,  
With never a backward thought or sigh  
For the waning year!*

*Sing of the morn that our Lord was born  
As it came in the days of youth,  
When the bells rang sweet in the village street  
Their tidings of joy and truth!  
Sing of the drifted fields of white,  
Of the crisp and the buoyant air;  
Of the country roads packed hard and tight,  
Of the loaded sleighs and the faces bright,  
Of the rosy girls and the laughter light,  
And the greetings fair!*

*Sing of the hall where we gathered all,  
With never a vacant place;  
Father and mother and sister and brother,  
And each with a smiling face.  
Sing of the thankful hearts sincere  
For the board so nobly laid;  
Of the boundless cheer of the garnered year,  
Of the ample roasts and the home-brewed beer,  
Of the stingless jest and the laughter clear,  
And the joy we made!*

*Sing of the night and the rare delight,  
Of the dance and the romping game!  
Of the moments fleet, and the twinkling feet  
In the blaze of the pine log's flame!  
Sing of the memories swift and keen  
As the poignant sense of love;  
Of the berried boughs and the evergreen,  
Of the last cup round and the parting scene,  
Of the last guest gone, with the miles between,  
And the stars above!*

—G. R.

## His Sister's Stocking



*St. Nicholas came stealing down  
 A chimney very long and murky,  
 To where young Clarence, deep in dreams,  
 Foretasted pudding, pie and turkey;  
 And there he found a stocking hung  
 That surely never had invested  
 Aught save some goddess' perfect limb,  
 So fair the form its own attested.*

*It's dainty lines quite baffle mine—  
 A perfect profile really fetching!  
 A silhouette of symmetry,  
 Excelling old Meissonier's etching.  
 From where the dainty instep proud  
 Had left its faultless, arched impression,  
 To gartered limits ne'er were limned  
 Such witching proofs of past possession!*

*Entranced into oblivion  
 Of flying minutes and his mission,  
 St. Nicholas enraptured gazed  
 On this divine material vision.  
 'Twere vain, he said, to stock what she  
 Will fill much better in the morning;  
 And so he wrote in merry mood  
 For Clarry's eyes this word of warning:*

*When little boys on Christmas Eve  
 Big sister's stockings beg or plunder,  
 Because they think their own too small,  
 They would do well this thought to ponder:  
 That old St. Nick with growing years  
 Grows gallant to his old heart's centre,  
 And never will his hand rush in  
 Where but a goddess' foot may enter!*

—G. R. in *Collier's Weekly*.

## ENTRANCE TO SECOND DIVISION, INSIDE SERVICE.

As space permits *The Civilian* will publish the papers set for the examination as above, which took place in Ottawa Nov. 11th to 16th. The first installment follows:

### Second Division.

#### ENGLISH LITERATURE.

November, 1912. Time: 3 hours.

(Candidates are required to observe the regulations strictly.)

Note.—Seven questions only are to be attempted.

1. Name a living English author who writes both prose and verse. Make a list of such works of his as you have read, adding brief explanatory notes.
2. For what are any *three* of the following authors noted: George Meredith, Thomas Hardy, G. K. Chesterton, Arnold Bennett, Robert Louis Stevenson? Name any works of these authors which you have read, and describe briefly.
3. Who is your favourite author? Tell what you know of his life and works. Explain carefully why you find pleasure in his works.
4. Describe *five* characters in any *one* of Dickens' novels which you have read.
5. Recount the plot, not exceeding two pages, of any *one* of Thackeray's, Kingsley's or Marryat's novels.
6. Name the authors of the following poems, adding brief descriptions: *The Cloud*, *Hyperion*, *The Ring and the Book*, *Locksley Hall*, *Aurora Leigh*, *The Prelude*, *The Ancient Mariner*, *Marmion*.
7. Give a brief account of the life and works of Thomas Carlyle, or T. B. Macaulay.
8. For what are the following authors noted: Johnson, Lamb, Gray, Burns, Cowper? Name at least *one* important work by each.
9. Name and describe *one* work by each of the following authors: Swift, Addison, Dryden, Bunyan, Defoe.
10. What were Milton's circumstances when he wrote *Comus*, and when he composed *Paradise Regained*? Describe both poems.
11. Recount the plot of *Hamlet*, not exceeding one page; and describe the *four* chief characters.

## Second Division.

### ENGLISH COMPOSITION.

November, 1912. Time: 3 hours.

Note.—Candidates are advised to give attention to their penmanship.

Values.

- 25 1. Write an essay on:  
How Canada may profit from the experience of other nations.
- 10 2. Write sentences in which the initials of the following words are (a) capital letters, (b) small letters. In no case may the given word be placed at the beginning of the sentence:—*aunt, west, company, spring, king, college, captain, revolution, thanksgiving, bay.*
- 15 3. Write a series of three dunning letters to a dilatory debtor who owes on account a sum of money to the firm of which you are the book-keeper. Assume that an interval of ten days elapses between two consecutive letters. Attend to the form of your letters.
- 10 4. Compose sentences containing the following words used correctly:—*avocation, anticipate, transpire, gender, verbal, balance, awful, elder, calculate, learn.*
- 10 5. Rewrite the following sentences correctly, and write a criticism of each:—
  - (a) If I was her, I would not have went.
  - (b) It is an universal panacea for all the ills that flesh is heir to.
  - (c) Will I receive a raise in my salary?
  - (d) It don't seem possible that it is ten years since I have seen you.
  - (e) We like to be with those who we love and whom we know love us.
- 5 6. Divide the following words into syllables and mark the accented syllable of each word:—*abdomen, zoological, mischievous, exquisite, allies, aerate, telegraphy, industry, deficit, impious.*
- 25 7. Set out in orderly form the gist of the following Address. The summary should contain all the salient points and nothing that is unimportant. Attention should be given to spelling, punctuation, arrangement and grammatical accuracy.  
(The address is to His Most Gracious Majesty and is too long for reproduction here.)

## Second Division.

### BIOLOGY.

November, 1912. Time: 2½ hours.

(Candidates are required to observe the regulations strictly.)

Note.—Seven questions only are to be attempted: four in the first group, and three in the second.

#### Botany.

1. Give an account of a cell.
2. Discuss the movements of water in large plants.
3. Give an account of one of the green algae.
4. Describe the structure and the nutritive processes of the yeast plant.
5. Give a description of any Canadian conifer.
6. Compare monocotyledons with dicotyledons.

#### Zoology.

1. Discuss the principles of animal classification, using as examples the characters of common domesticated animals.
2. Describe in detail the changes taking place in a typical insect metamorphosis, and give three examples showing the significance of these stages in the destruction of insect pests.
3. What are the chief differences between fishes and land-living vertebrates in respect of (a) locomotion, (b) respiration, and (c) circulation?
4. Describe the nature and extent of segmentation in the various organ-systems of the common earthworm.
5. Give a general discussion of the chief points to be considered in the conservation of food and game fishes, from a natural history standpoint.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### Changes in "Hansard" and in Committee Reporting Staff.

This session of Parliament sees the most extensive changes in the House of Commons in "Hansard" that have been made since the official reporting staff was organized about thirty years ago.

Messrs. S. A. Abbott and E. J. Duggan, two of the original staff, veterans of the service, were superannuated at the close of last session. At the same time, changes which

had long been in contemplation and which had been recommended by the Debates Committee, were authorized by the House of Commons, to take effect at the beginning of this session. Under the new plan Mr. Albert Horton, who for many years held the title of Chief Reporter, was made Editor of Hansard. Mr. T. P. Owens, the next in seniority, is made Associate Editor. Three new men have been appointed to the staff, having been chosen by competitive examination held last session under the direction of the Civil Service Commission. The successful men, all of whom have been appointed as from the beginning of this session, and who are now at work on the floor of the House, are Messrs. Charles S. Blue, Fred. W. S. Galbraith and Earl C. Young.

Mr. Blue had been for some time one of the staff of official reporters of Committees of the House of Commons. His appointment to "Hansard" left a vacancy which was filled by the appointment of Mr. H. E. Oliver. The multiplicity of committees and the general increase of work has made necessary an addition to the Committee reporting staff. The new appointee is Mr. H. T. Owens, of the Department of Railways and Canals. Messrs. Oliver and Owens were competitors in the "Hansard" examination and stood next in marks to the three successful men. Their appointment is therefore a recognition of merit.

### A Deal of Difference.

Little Willie, who was puzzled over the name of a famous Arctic explorer, asked his father, "How do you pronounce the first name of K-n-u-d Rasmussen—with a short u or a long one?" "Oh, it doesn't make any difference!" replied the father, who didn't know. "Well, I don't know!" said the boy. "I think it makes a good deal of difference whether a man is nud or nude in the Arctic regions!"



## Alas, Poor Jack! — A Dolly Dialogue.

By G. R.

*Scene:* Murphy-Gamble's Toy Shop.

*Time:* Christmas Eve.

HE: *Christine!*

SHE: (turning) *You here?* Of all places!

HE: Of all places for us to meet, after—

SHE: After six months.

HE: Of exile, Christine!

SHE: Don't you think that this is a beautiful doll?

HE: You know that I don't care for blondes.

SHE: This is a doll.

HE: All blonde women are dolls to me.

SHE: Well, at least, this doll is a fair subject for a dialogue in a toy shop. I want your opinion of her *as a doll*.

HE: I am prejudiced, so my opinion is of no use. Besides, I want to talk about—

SHE: Aren't *you* buying dolls? I am sure you were gazing at this one with admiration.

HE: It was this dark one, and it was the admiration of prejudice. I was commissioned by my sister to buy three. I have chosen these.

SHE: *All brunettes!*

HE: You see, I am constant and consistent—even in dolls.

SHE: Your sister will bless you! You had better take *one* fair doll, anyway.

HE: To better prove the superiority of the brunettes? Now, don't you think that we can let the dolls—

FLOOR-MANAGER: Are you receiving attention, Madam?

SHE: Thank you. Now, here is a fair one that I am sure must soften your stony heart. And she is so exquisitely dressed!

HE: *My stony heart?* O, Christine! Well, if you are quite determined that this first talk of ours, after six months, shall be merely a dolly dialogue. (to himself) Now, what the devil is that fellow with the black beard staring over here for?

SHE: A dolly dialogue? But that suggests *Hope*, doesn't it?

HE: *Does* it, Christine?

SHOPGIRL: Are you being served, sir?

HE: Splendidly, thank you. (Thirty, Love!) Ah, you have the heart of—of a fair doll, Christine! Do you think I can stand here, seeing you for the first time since—since six months gone? Do you recall that night in June—

SHE: Upon the Rideau River?

HE: Stand here and talk of nothing but *dolls*? (Aside) Confound that fellow! I'll go over there and pull his black beard!

SHE: You know, I have to superintend the dressing of a Christmas Tree. Won't you help me?

HE: May I? You know very well, Christine—

SHE: Will you, *really*? We want a Santa Claus. There, I have the idea! You shall be—

HE: O, I think I draw the line at Santa Claus! (Aside!) Curses on that fellow! He doesn't seem to mind my stare a bit! I believe he's actually grinning at me in that black beard of his!

SHE: For the children's sake!

HE: Well—for *your* sake. Do you know who that man is over there, in the woolly toys? He just fits in, with that beard of his. I'll have to borrow it for Santa Claus. There, he's looking this way now. That dark-skinned chap, with the big black beard. O, you *know* him! (Aside) By jove! She smiles at him as if she *owns* him!

SHE: Why—I thought—I thought you knew—

HE: (with a sudden cold thrill) Knew—*what*?

SHE: Why—that—that—I thought you had seen in the paper—that—

HE: You don't mean—Christine—you can't *mean*. . . . No, don't bring him over here!. . . . I'm going! But at least you need not have *toyed* with me, here, like this! A dolly dialogue, indeed! The heart of a doll! You knew that I cared for you ever since that first afternoon. . . .

SHE: *Goosey!* Don't be absurd! You don't understand. Ah, here he is! Jack, this is Mr. Frank Hamilton; my brother Jack.

HER BROTHER JACK: Awfully glad to meet you, Mr. Hamilton! Worse than the Australian bush, getting through this crush.

HE: *Jolly* glad to meet you, old chap!

HER BROTHER JACK: (in his black beard) By George, I thought so!

SHE: Jack has been in the wilderness of Australia for the past six years, you know. Jack, see that they parcel these up well, like a dear big brother, will you? I'll take them in the sleigh.

HE: Six years? I've been in the wilderness of the Far West and Deep Despair for the past six months, and they have been a lifetime.

SHE: Then you will help me with the Tree? I've another idea: I'll get *Jack* to be Santa Claus. His beard, with some flour, will do capitally!

HE: O, capitally! Christine, what is my answer to be?

SHE: You shall see—to-morrow. I'll put it on the Christmas Tree, and you shall have it from Santa Claus—in a nutshell.

### WINTER SPORTS.

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real, 169 miles west of Ottawa, and 205 miles north of Toronto. It is easily reached by the trains of the Grand Trunk Railway. A postal card to Mr. Wm. Call, Manager, the "Highland Inn," Algonquin Park station, Ontario, will bring a handsome illustrated booklet telling you all about it.

## Co-operation from Victoria to Sydney.

### Gleanings on Cost of Living and How to Meet it.

In spite of wars and the immense efforts to prevent wars by being ready for them; in spite of elections and talk of elections; in spite of the immensely exciting contests in the sports of the changing seasons; in spite of everything else that commands space in the newspapers and centres discussion wherever men meet, the question of the cost of living is still very much to the fore, not only in Canada, not only in America, but throughout the world. Not as summarizing the situation, but merely as furnishing food for thought on a subject which is so much thought about, *The Civilian* makes note of a few facts of current report.

The latest issue of the Labour Gazette, the official publication which has undertaken to follow the course of wholesale prices, and of retail prices also so far as possible, shows that there is no relief for the breadwinners of Canada. The index number of wholesale prices—an average compared with carefully worked-out standards—is even higher for October than for September and higher than for October of last year. And it is pretty safe to say that if wholesale prices are higher retail prices are not lower. Compared with the average of wholesale prices for 1890 to 1900, the prices for October this year were 33.1 per cent. higher. The wholesalers, on the average, received for their goods \$133.10 as compared with \$100 average for the whole decade which closed the last century. Add profits to this, and it will be seen that the consumer comes out but badly, especially if his income be stationary or but slowly increasing.

It seems to be argued on all hands that the main reason for the success of the Democratic party in the re-

cent elections in the United States is that the people no longer have faith in the reigning party to increase the prosperity of the masses by increasing their incomes, and so they now turn to the hitherto unsuccessful party and entrust them with power. Giving them a mandate to reduce prices and so to give present incomes greater purchasing power.

The tendency of public opinion to discuss a general principle by concentrating upon one case seems for the present, so far as Canada is concerned, to have worked out in what may be known as the "Winnipeg Apple" illustration. A Winnipeg consumer bought a barrel of Ontario apples, paying \$5.75 therefor. Opening the barrel, he found a note from the grower, "I received 75c for this barrel of apples; how much did you pay?" The \$5 "spread" between the orchard and the consumer's cellar has been eagerly discussed both East and West. Nobody has questioned the figures,—the grower did actually receive 75c and the consumer did actually pay \$5.75. The only point in question is to account for the \$5 of difference.

The Winnipeg Telegram, which "scooped" all other papers on the original item, has followed up the lead with great enterprise. Not satisfied with dealing with the facts on the ground, it instructed its Ottawa correspondent, Mr. A. R. Ford, one of the ablest members of the press gallery, to look up the Ontario end of the case. Mr. Ford interviewed M. A. McNeil, the official head of the Fruit Division of the Department of Agriculture, and representatives of all other interests concerned. He set forth the facts in several articles, and, in the Telegram of December 5th stated his

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conclusions and suggested remedies. Recognizing that co-operation among growers has done much to improve their position — (for the grower who belongs to a co-operative selling agency was not compelled to take 75c a barrel for his apples) — the correspondent says: "There seems no reason why consumers could not get together and buy in carload lots direct from the grower." Lower freight rates and more rapid and careful carriage are also necessary.

As to co-operation, a most noteworthy fact is that the deputation of the Trades and Labour Congress which waited upon the Prime Minister of the Dominion and his colleagues to present the recommendations of the Calgary convention of last summer strongly urged the passage of a Dominion law to facilitate the formation of co-operative societies. On the other hand, the Civil Service Federation, whose meeting was reported in last issue of *The Civilian*, did not pass a resolution in favor of co-operation, or even discuss the matter. It is understood that this was the result of an oversight.

It is reported that Major J. Alf. Currie, M.P., for North Simcoe, will introduce a bill to give effect, at least in part, to the prayer of the petition of the Trades and Labour Congress. Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, the well-known advocate of co-operation and leader of the very successful and rapidly-spreading movement for co-operative banking, is also urging co-operative legislation, as he has done for a number of sessions.

Recent bulletins of the Bureau of Economic and Social Intelligence issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture give some most striking facts showing the success of co-operation in many countries of Europe. Two facts, taken almost at random, may be briefly summarized. The agitation in Austria which has

culminated in advanced legislation on the subject of co-operation has called attention to the tremendous strides that co-operation has made in that country within the last ten years. One in every twelve inhabitants of the kingdom is a member of some co-operative credit society. These credit societies are over ten thousand in number, and their revenues for last year made the magnificent total of \$572,000,000. There are over 5,000 co-operative societies engaged either in production or in distribution of goods. The work of these societies is actively promoted by the government. So widespread is the movement that it is now proposed that even the small proprietors of forest lands should form societies for the purchase of tools and supplies and the sale of product on co-operative lines. A notable attempt to unite city and country in a co-operative movement for the benefit of both has been inaugurated in Bavaria. A bargain has been made between a co-operative farmer's society devoted to swine-raising on one side and the towns of Ulm and New Ulm on the other, under which the farmers are to raise and the towns are to buy a certain number of pigs of a certain weight at a fixed price. The towns pay a fixed rate upon a certain capital to be used in the business and also furnish, free of rent, land for the operations of the farmers' society in this business. As the parties could not agree upon certain other terms, the Bavarian government stepped in with a bonus which helps to save either side from danger of loss through diseases in the swine or other unforeseen contingency.

As showing what is possible in the way of food production, certain local facts for Ottawa are of interest. Through the generosity and enterprise of Mr. R. B. Whyte, a former president of the Ontario Horticultural Association, and the assistance of a committee of other

public-spirited men, a potato-growing contest was held this season amongst the boys of Carleton county. The contestants, thirty-three in number, nearly all produced potatoes at the rate of more bushels per acre than the year's averages for the farms of Ontario. The best crop was at the rate of 358½ bushels per acre against 164 bushels, the average for the province. In the contest, rent of land, labour, horse-hire, seed and other expenses were charged against the crop. The cost per bushel on this basis varied very greatly, but the most successful competitor in this respect turned out his crop at an average cost of a shade less than 10 cents a bushel, and a round dozen of the boys kept the cost below thirty cents a bushel.

A. C. C.

### OTTAWA C. S. CLUB NOTES.

Club dinners are now the order of the day and are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 o'clock. After dinner the bridge tournament goes on with vigour.

The Club recently advertised for a new steward and cook and after many applications had been received, selected a steward in the person of Mr. Edward Farman, formerly of the Rideau and Country Clubs. The new steward comes well recommended. He will sleep on the premises. Already there has been a marked increase in the patronage of the dining room.

A smoking concert will be held in the Club on Wednesday evening, Dec. 18th. Every effort will be made to make it a success. Each member is invited to bring two friends who are members of the Civil Service.

Mr. W. J. Johnston, of the Immigration Branch, Department of In-

terior, has been elected a member of the Club.

Mr. Charles C. Patterson of the Department of Public Works has been elected a member of the club.

The Accountant's Branch of the Post Office Department are making arrangements to hold its fourth annual dinner in the Club dining rooms. Past dinners of this branch have always been successful, and the next one is being looked forward to with interest by the male members of the staff. Other branches of the service could not do better than hold annual dinners at the C. S. Club. A new and efficient cook was installed on Monday last, in addition to the steward.

### PERSONAL ITEMS.

The many friends of Mrs. McElhinney, Vancouver, B.C., nee Marion McLaughlin, formerly of the Dept. of the Interior, will be interested to know that she and her husband have recently been blessed with a son and heir.

Misses Barton and Lunny, late of the Immigration Branch, temporary staff, have joined the House of Commons staff of stenographers.

Mr. A. A. Lapointe, formerly of the Militia Department, has been transferred to the Department of Interior.

#### Post Office Items.

No less than three clerks in the Accountant's Branch have been married since 15th Oct.: Jos. Dunn, K. Irving, C. A. Gorrell. Presentations were made in each case.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Vincent Webb of the Accountant's Branch, who has been ill for the last five months, is improving and will soon be able to resume his duties.

Miss Bertha Constantineau of the postal note division has been laid up for four or five days.

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Miss E. Migneault has been away on sick leave for good part of the summer.

Miss C. Martineau of the postal note division has been ill for the past two weeks.

Miss Alice Barthe of the postal note division, who has been laid up with typhoid fever, is much better.

Miss L. Meredith of the money order branch is away on sick leave.

E. G. Falls of the Acct's. Branch is on duty at St. John, N.B., with Mr. A. Bolduc, superintendent of the Rural Mail Delivery.

Mr. J. C. Martin, asst. accountant, is taking his holidays this week.

#### Dept. of Agriculture Notes.

The many friends of Miss Annie Irwin of the Patent Branch will be heartily glad to hear that, after several long weeks of serious illness, she is now on the high road to recovery and health.

The entire staff of the Comparing Room of the Patent Branch have been promoted to the Library, which makes, as Mr. Kipling says, "another ster(e)y."

Miss F. Fyles of the Botanical Division, Central Experimental Farm, has left for New York en route to Bermuda, where she will spend her year-earned statutory holidays. There should be lots of oranges on Miss Fyles' Christmas tree.

Referring to the dinner given the other evening to inaugurate the opening of the new premises (St. James Street) of the Montreal Club, the Montreal Herald says: "One of the guests was Mr. Gordon Rogers, who is not only of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, but also an exceptionally clever entertainer. In a delightfully easy and conversational way he was irresistibly funny as Mr. Dooley (P. F. Dunne) on Christmas, while he also gave some Coster and Lauder songs with splendid effect."

Miss M. Curran of Montreal has joined the executive staff of the Department of Justice.

## Personals.

### Promotions.

From January to July, 1912.

Public Works:—J. S. Routhier, J. M. Chalifour, D. M. Minard, J. M. Somerville, Arthur Pare, J. B. St. Laurent, Jos. Vincent, L. H. Colman (April, 1911), Dr. A. E. Belanger, to Div. 1B; J. U. Bray, Louis Charron, P. E. Moffett, P. A. Lefort, L. J. Mackay, J. A. Cantin, C. S. A. Mackay, J. B. E. Bedard, P. E. Gagnon, to Div. 2A; D. H. Keeley, to Div. 1A; Blanche Blais, Oscar Belanger, to Div. 3A; J. A. Drouin, to Div. 2B.

### Resignations.

Secy. of State:—F. E. Fallon.

C. S. Commission: — Miss Brace-land.

Public Works: — D. J. Corrigan, C. A. Narraway, S. A. M. Skinner, Ottawa.

Dept. Agriculture:—J. L. Giguere, Agnes M. Bradley.

Customs:—R. H. Moir, Wm. McC. Arnold, Ottawa; L. G. Gagnon, Winnipeg; W. J. Miller, Bruce Mines; Louis Dionne, Montmagny; W. J. Ballantyne, Hamilton; Geo. N. Freckelton, Halifax; Jno. Crawford, Prince Albert; J. F. Langdon, Brighton.

Finance:—Miss V. G. Clayton, A. H. Boomer.

Governor-General: — Sergt. Wm. Badger.

Inland Revenue: — Jas. Fyle, E. Belisle, Ottawa; R. Jones, Gas and Elec., Victoria; W. M. Tomlinson, W. and M., St. Hyacinthe; Wm. Egan, Renfrew; H. A. Hodgins, Ottawa; W. H. McPhie, Hamilton; Alfred Couvrette, Gas and Elec., Ottawa; C. Pittman, Dep. Coll., Saskatchewan.

Interior: — H. C. Smith, Topo. Sur., John Taylor, Astro. Beh., John Gray, Immig., Ottawa; Maraquita Martin, Mining Lds. Beh., W. R. Caldwell, Ry. Lds. Beh., E. Blyth, Tim. and Graz., Ottawa; K. W.

MacKenzie, Edmonton; D. Buchanan, Dauphin; W. J. Kennedy, Winnipeg; Stella Wood, P. G. Keyes, A. M. Darrach, H. A. MacDonald, Miss A. F. Dixon, D. M. Mackenzie, B. J. Roe, A. W. Ashton, J. D. MacMillan, Ottawa.

Justice:—Dr. J. J. Allaire, St. V. de Paul; Judge Dugas, Yukon Ter.; Judge Craig, Yukon Ter.; Judge Robson, Manitoba.

Labour:—Jas. T. Maloney.

Marine and Fisheries: — Alfred Roy, Miss J. G. Bremner, Ottawa.

Mines:—G. G. Aitken, Ottawa.

Naval Service: — Pierre M. LeBlanc, Ottawa; Paymaster Gerty, Halifax; G. W. C. Venn, Ottawa.

Post Office:—H. F. Taylor, Calgary; G. A. Harris, Wm. Stobie, Edmonton; C. G. Babcock, L. E. Galipeau, E. R. Higgins, Miss M. F. McLaughlin, (Inside), E. H. Wright, D. E. McIntyre, (Inside), Ottawa; R. Herdman, O. B. MacNeill, Regina; A. J. Kinnear, R. McWhinney, Vancouver; J. E. Cusson, L. B. Bourk, Montreal; B. Agar, Moose Jaw; H. M. Heard, Toronto; J. M. Garon, Quebec; John Hunter, Winnipeg.

### Superannuations.

Post Office: — T. E. Moore, Auguste Dufresne, Montreal; W. D. O'Brien, (Inside), Alex. York, Ottawa.

Chas. Owen, Customs, Georgetown; John H. Fraser, Customs, Wallaceburg; Geo. W. Woodward, Excise, Guelph; W. J. Gerald, Dep. Minister, In. Revenue; Edw. Adams, Marine Dept., Ottawa.

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### Athletics.

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Amateur athletics in Canada lost a staunch supporter in the death, recently, of Sir Edward Clouston, Bart. He was a warm friend of all forms of clean sport. In his younger days he played on the Montreal lacrosse team, and to him as much

as anyone in Canada is due the present high standard of amateur skating. In yachting circles too, he took a prominent part. The deceased baronet was for many years a trustee of the Stanley Cup.

\* \* \*

The proposed winter carnival in Ottawa in February will no doubt bring together a lot of athletes. The skating championship will be held then and no doubt snow shoeing and ski-ing will receive a considerable impetus. We have got beyond the stage of arguing as to whether or not Canada receives any benefit from winter carnivals. The last event of this kind in Ottawa was held some 18 years ago and was a distinct success in every way.

\* \* \*

Bowling on the alley is becoming increasingly popular. The Civil Service is particularly intersted in the sport. Every day one reads of a record being broken. Why do not the ladies of the service take it up? It is healthful and quite as beneficial as curling, which sport ladies have indulged in for some years.

\* \* \*

It seems unfortunate that Hon. Charles Devlin should have yielded to injudicious clamour in his new game law for the Province of Quebec and permitted the use of dogs in the hunting of moose, deer and caribou. Every other province of Canada has prohibited this inhuman sport. In fact, in most of the other provinces a dog, no matter how valuable, may be killed on sight by anyone finding him in the woods. If we must destroy the noble denizens of the forest, let us do it in a sportsmanlike way. Our Deputy Minister of Justice is a keen moose hunter. Can he not have the new act declared *ultra vires*?

\* \* \*

The hockey, war goes merrily on. There appears to be a low morale pervading the business when a bril-

liant player like Ernie Johnston coolly repudiates his written contract. Readers of this column will remember the stand up fight of some six years ago carried on by lovers of the amateur instinct in sport. At that time the managers of bogus amateur athletic clubs were corrupting the morals of players like Johnston by paying them money surreptitiously and making them swear to false affidavits. These same managers are now owners of bone fide professional clubs and the boys whom they taught to lie and steal are bringing back the bread cast on the waters and giving their teachers a lesson in their own special unscrupulous methods.

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### CRUELTY THE CHRISTIAN'S SHAME.

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Mrs. L. O. Nave of Jackson, Tennessee, in an eloquent burst of righteous indignation at the cruel treatment of animals, writes in the Sun of that city as follows:

In this great country where we boast of our religion, of our churches, of our culture, and our refinement, we all know that societies have had to be organized all over the United States for the protection of dumb animals from the cruelties of man! Societies to protect animals—that some of us are pleased to call beasts—from the cruel treatment of Christian man!

What a reflection on the type of men in this Christian age—that laws have to be made—societies have to be organized, to prevent men from exercising their cruelties on animals that cannot speak for themselves! When a man becomes a victim of the alcohol habit, we know that his will power is weakened and he has practically no control over his own actions; when a man becomes an habitual gambler, we understand

that money has warped his sensibilities of honor—but when a man mistreats a dumb animal, what excuse shall we make for him? Thoughtlessness? That is a poor reason for a man to cause suffering; a poor excuse for men to try to cover up the promptings of a mean heart. Any man who has a kind heart, who makes any pretense toward being a true gentleman, is kind to all of God's animals. He does not allow his horses abused and overworked for a few paltry cents. Horses are made to work for man, you say? Yes, and that is just the reason the horse deserves your consideration and deserves just as much comfort as it is possible for you to give him. In the name of common decency, if you must abuse or mistreat any of God's creation, don't let it be a helpless animal that cannot speak in its own behalf. If the horses could tell us of the pain they suffer, the human race could not endure the cries that would go up from abused, neglected horses, even in our fair city.—Dumb Animals.

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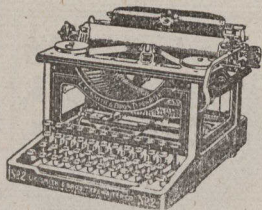
### Love's Labour Lost.

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The Reverend John Brown was in the habit on festive occasions of proposing the health of a certain young lady as his favourite toast. Noticing that he had abruptly abandoned the practice, a curious acquaintance asked him the reason. "Because," he said sadly, "I have toasted her for sixteen years without being able to make her brown, and so I've resolved to toast her no longer!"

---

Congressman Reilly, who has the proud distinction of being called the "father of the eight hour bill" for the postal service in the United States, received a complimentary reception at the annual ball given by the New York association.



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