

CIVIL SERVICE

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ANOTHER fine principle which has worked exactly contrary to our expectations, is civil service.

In theory the best and most competent would be advanced to the higher offices of the government. The employes through all departments would have, in theory, a chance to advance themselves by efficient work.

In practice, civil service has worked in the opposite direction. We see the departments in Washington and official places in many of the other cities of the country, filled with employes who, almost without exception, are intent on doing as little as possible and still retain their jobs. There is no ambition except to comply with civil services sufficiently to remain on the payroll. There is no party or other loyalty and no obligation or incentive to do good work.

So we find a new administration going into power with no control whatever over the vast majority of its servants.

The Civil Service commission has become a powerful arm of the government. Its chief,

if not only object, is to keep employes in their jobs. A superior officer has no power whatever to dismiss a subordinate. That is unless he is able to convict him of high crimes.

A civil service employe comes mighty near being a little king. The head of a department is but fleeting. But Civil Service sails on its way untroubled by duties, and fighting only when a cut in wages is suggested, or an increase in work.
