

U. S. CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM DEALT DAMAGING BLOW BY PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS

Ex-Service Men With Low Grades in Tests
Given Jobs Requiring Expert
Technical Knowledge.

EFFICIENCY LOWERED BY RULING

Applicants With High Marks in Examinations Often Shoved Down List
for Appointments.

BY TALCOTT POWELL

Preference for veterans has been sapping at the civil service system since the World war until the merit system of appointment has been riddled.

In some cases, veterans who fail in competitive examinations are placed in jobs vital to public health above technicians who turn in nearly perfect test papers.

Policemen and firemen are able to get promotions over better candidates with higher grades because the government classifies them as "disabled veterans." This despite the fact that the municipality for which they work find them in sound physical condition.

Congress has made it possible for a veteran who has an arrested case of tuberculosis to be preferred for a civil service job over one who has not—this despite the fact that the first man may get 60 per cent on his competitive examination and the second 95 per cent.

Civil service was established after a long battle back in the eighties. The idea was to remove party politics from the appointment of the rank and file charged with carrying on the government's business. There is general agreement that it has heightened efficiency.

Under the system of competitive examinations, the person receiving a civil service appointment is supposed to be well qualified for his job.

Given Civil Service Preference

In 1919 when the army was disbanded, there were many complaints from ex-soldiers that their jobs had been filled by stay-at-homes. There was considerable justice in the complaint, and congress passed a law giving civil service preference for federal jobs to veterans.

It left it up to the President how this law was to be enforced. President Harding ordered the civil service commission to add five points to the marks of all veterans on competitive examinations for jobs, and if the veterans were disabled he was to receive 10 points.

This not only had the effect of giving the men a higher rating than their knowledge warranted, but it also qualified many veterans who would have failed to pass their tests at all. Passing mark is 70 per cent, but a disabled veteran passed at 60 and an ex-soldier suffering no disability was to receive 10 points.

Order Is Criticized

There was much criticism of Harding's order and its results. Many ex-soldiers joined in the protest. General John F. O'Ryan, who commanded the Twenty-seventh division in France, said:

"The state should secure the very best capacity obtainable for public service, all qualified according to the necessary standards. Public sentiment supports the proposal that among those so qualified some form of preference should be given the men who served the country with honor and efficiency during the war."

"Obviously, the fair thing would seem to provide for degrees of preference."

(To Be Continued)

VOTE FOR REPEAL

By United Press
ALBANY, N. Y., April 16.—The Democratic state committee today went on record for repeal of the eighteenth amendment.

Leaders said the resolution was approved so as to definitely place the state committee behind any movement in the national convention for adoption of a "wringing wet" plank.

BREAD AWARDS MADE

56 Persons Given Prizes at General Baking Company Party.

Announcement of the award to fifty-six persons of prizes for tastings about Bond bread was made Friday by officials of the General Baking Company, following party for winners Thursday night in the local plant.

Prizes consisted of a fifteen to thirty-day supply of bread. Winners are eligible for prizes ranging upward to \$10,000, to be awarded by national judges in final judging May 9 in New York.

Winners announced Thursday night included five children and fifty-one adults. They were selected for best answers to eight questions pertaining to merits of Bond bread "sunshine vitamin B."

Federal Workers Prefer Layoff, Not Wage Cuts

By United Press
WASHINGTON, April 16.—The red-haired stenographer in the White House was talking to the messenger about salary cuts and she disliked the idea very much.

"What I'd rather have," she told him, and the rest of the office force at large, "if they're going to do anything, is a month off. I don't want any salary cut."

"Neither do I," said another girl. "But I hope they make it only two weeks off, if they're going to make us take it without pay."

The talk was typical of similar offices all over the capital—and in a thousand cities and towns all over the country, for that matter.

The many thousands of persons directly or indirectly dependent on Uncle Sam for their livelihood have turned their eyes to Washington, and anxiously await the outcome of the government pay cuts proposed as part of the economy program.

"I wrote to my congressman," one man said. "I told him I thought a pay cut was unfair—but for my part, I'd take the time off. I could do something with my time, at least. But I couldn't cash in I don't get."

"I could sleep, anyway, for a month," another commented, "and save car-fare to work. Give me a month or two weeks' lay-off, but don't cut my pay scale."

Another important technical examination was for the job of junior

Like Your Giblets? They Are Great, Prepared With Noodles

Odd Jobs—No. 9

BY ARCH STEENL

"Whatcha got for supper? Giblets and gravy! Um-um-ummm-umph, well, if those lips of mine don't smack."

And those of the city who'll agree that giblets, just fixed any way, are the feast for a King George may read on to hear about the lady who sells the city its chicken giblets.

Luminaries of the north side and juggle-buggies beat a path to her sales table and cars each Monday and sometimes on Wednesday of each week, too, to get the delicacy of epicureans.

For ten years, Mrs. Ella Carlisle, 1617 Sharon avenue, has presided over the giblet sales days at the Columbia Conservatory of Music, 1735 Churchman avenue.

She has umpired the division of the hearts, gizzards and livers of chickens on their way to be cans of soup with the impartiality of a world series arbiter, and she's still an admitted fancier of the dish "giblets and noodles," when the day's work is done.

"W"ild like to have more giblets than livers," is the plaint of one be-diamonded matron with a lap-dog under an arm.

"Sorry, Missus, but giblets is giblets. But I'll do my best for you. They're 10 cents a pound as is—yes, as it," Mrs. Carlisle may retort kindly.

Three hundred pounds of the savory meat go before one could say Arthur Robinson or even Jim Watson.

In fact, there are Mondays when the giblets of live chickens are mortgaged or have a heavy lien on them before they've been killed for the soup kettle by the canning company.

The 500 eight-inch brook trout, shipped to the President's camp, were put off the train at Orange, Va., by mistake, according to word received here, and dumped into the Rose river by some mountaineers who were expecting a similar consignment.

Virginia trout season began Friday.

TENEMENT FIRE COSTS 6 LIVES

Arrest Painter Who Stored Supplies Under Stair.

By United Press
NEW YORK, April 16.—Six persons were killed in a mysterious fire in a Bronx tenement today and after a preliminary investigation police ordered a painter held on a technical charge of homicide.

The dead included four members of one family, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dobromil and their twin sons, Jacob and Joseph. The other two to succumb were Edith Weinstein, 7, and Philip Weinstein, 10-year-old son of a former boxer, Benjamin Weinstein.

Police discovered a large amount of paint, benzine and other inflammable materials in a locker under the stairway and arrested Benjamin Siegel, who admitted to ownership. Virginia trout season began Friday.

Wrong Angle-r

By United Press
NASHUA, N. H., April 16.—If fisherman Herbert Hoover wants to catch the trout raised for him at the local government hatchery, he'll have to transfer his angling operations from the Rapidan to the Rose river.

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