

FAIR PLAY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE:
AN OPEN LETTER*

I AM informed by the local board of examiners of the Baltimore Post-Office that at present few but Republicans apply to be examined for the positions of carriers and clerks in that office. In view of the approaching August examinations I wish to make through your columns a statement to all Democrats, and to all citizens generally, without regard to party affiliations, who may think of applying for such positions. On behalf of the Civil Service Commission I desire to extend an earnest invitation to all who wish to enter the classified service at the Baltimore Post-Office to come forward and be examined. The commission will do all in its power to see that they are treated with perfect fairness, irrespective of their party affiliations, and will guarantee that their papers will be marked and their names listed and certified for appointment exactly according to the averages they make for themselves in the examination.

It is illegal for the postmaster or any appointing officer to refuse to appoint, or to discriminate in any way against, any candidate for a place in the classified service because of his politics. The law is designed expressly to secure an equal chance to Republicans and Democrats. Democrats have exactly the same right that Republicans have to examination and certification by the commission and to appointment by the postmaster or other appointing officer. Under the law affecting the classified service it is an offense, punishable

* From the *Baltimore Sun*. Reprinted in *The Civil Service Reformer*, July, 1890.

by removal from office, for the postmaster or any similar officer to try to find out a man's politics, or to take politics into account in any way in making appointments.

I sincerely hope that every young man, whatever his politics, Democratic or otherwise, who desires to enter the government service as a clerk or carrier in the Baltimore Post-Office will come forward at the next examination. We guarantee him fair play as far as we are concerned. It is our especial desire to get Democrats to enter these examinations as freely as Republicans, and we shall do all in our power to see that political considerations are given no weight in making appointments, and that all applicants, Democrats and Republicans, are treated alike.