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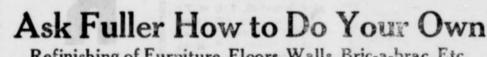
The fundamental purpose of the dy-Il service inw was to establish, in the parts of the service covered by its provisions, a merit system whereby selection for appointment should be made upon the basis of demonstrated relative Stness, without regard to political, religious, or other such siderations.

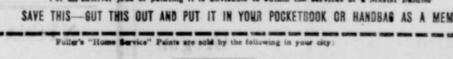
The act requires that the rules shall provide, among other things, for open competitive examinations for testing the fitness of applicants for the classified service, the making of appointments from among those passing with highest grades, an apportionment of appenditments in the departments at Washington among the states and ter-ritories, a period of probation before absolute appointment and the arohibition of the use of official authority to coerce the political action of any person or body.

In 1883, the year in which the civil service law was enacted, 13,924 posttions in the civil service were made subject to competition. The entire number of positions in the federal executive civil service on June 20 1916, was 480,327. At the height of the war expansion there were approx-imately 1,000,000 men and women employed in the federal executive civil service, about \$00,000 of whom held positions subject to competition. On July 81, 1920, the entire number of federal axecutive civil positions, as nearly as can be estimated, had been reduced to 601,116. Approximately or, in other words, in the petitie classified service. The force is still alderly but steadily decreasing.

During the 19 months of our particicommission gave competitive examinations under the civil service law and rules to slightly less than 1,000,000 perons, and about 400,000 persons with tested qualifications were supplied by mission to the service. A northe cou mal year's business is about 200,000 persons examined and about 50,000 appointed.

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ships more. Once only, it is told, has

December, 1895," the drum beat the roll of a sinking ship. One, two, three-the hearers counted the drum beats, time and again, in their intermittent booming, to twenty-four. They waited, therefore, for report of a ship lost with twenty-four lives; no such news came. The new steel freighter Miwaka, on her malden trip during the storm with twenty-five-not twenty-four-aboard never made her port; wreckage ever was found. On this account, throughout the families whose fathers, brothers and sons were the officers and crew of the Miwaka, there stirred for a time a desperate belief that one of the men on the Miwaka es saved; that somewhere, somehow, was allve and might return. The day of the destruction of the Miwaka was fixed as December 5 by the time at which she passed the government lookout at the straits; the hour was fixed as five o'clock in the morning

Storm-the stinging, frozen sleet slash of the February norther whistling down the floe-jammed length of the lake-was assaulting Chicago. So heavy was this frost on the panes of the Fort Dearborn club-one of the staidest of the down-town clubs for men-that the great log fires blazing on the open hearths added appreciable The few members present at this hour of the afternoon showed by their of their conversation the dulling of vitality which warmth and shelter bring on a day of cold and storm. On one, however, the storm had had a confrom time to time he stopped ab-Thy by a window, scraped from it in finger nall the frost, stared out for an instant through the little openruptly his nervous pacing with a mansince his arrival at the club an hour before, none even among those who en knew him best had ventured to speak th to him,