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Confederation.

THE CIVILIAN offers some suggestions for consideration by the Convention of April 29th and 30th.

A week from date some fifteen or twenty delegates, representing as many organizations within the Canadian Civil Service, will meet at Ottawa for the purpose of forming a Civil Service Federation, — a permanent affiliation or association of all the bodies of such character at present existing throughout the Dominion. In other words, the problem for which they will assemble is to provide some facile working means whereby the strength of all within the service shall be readily available for the good of all. So far as we are aware it will be the first meeting ever to be held that was representative in a designedly comprehensive way of the entire civil service; and though the idea of a united service is not now heard of for the first time it was never before reduced to the definite and carefully-considered basis of the present undertaking. Already the success of the meeting from the standpoint of attendance is assured. From Prince Edward Island to British Columbia the several organizations have reported favourably and with but one or two exceptions are sending delegates. The local association has completed arrangements for the reception of the representatives and for the launching of the convention upon its way with

the minimum of preliminary loss of time or confusion. With this much alone accomplished, it is possible to congratulate the service as a whole upon perhaps the most signal display in its history of community of appreciation of the fact that it has a very wide and vital community of interests.

We have been from the outset a very ardent believer in the feasibility of the exact course of action that has at length, after too long a period of mistrust and delay, been entered upon. It is, of course, impossible to measure now the exact potentialities of the movement or to map out the exact course it is to run. Nevertheless, where the fundamental methods involved have been thoroughly understood and properly applied, and where the idea at the back of all is so indisputable as that in union there is strength, one may predict a good deal of the end from the beginning. Herein, as it seems to us, it would be hard to over-estimate the importance of the decision already arrived at—that the new and all-embracing organization is to rest upon a federal basis, that is, that it recognizes the essential diversity of many groups and interests within the service, but that it purposes to bring all together for the solution of common problems, which,