

advance in salaries for, at any rate, a considerable period, notwithstanding the fact that under such a system comparatively few of the clerks would ever become beneficiaries.

However, some system of retiring allowance is so greatly needed as an aid to economy and efficiency, that I would be glad to see any system adopted which could be put into effect immediately; for any system could be changed after experience shows its defects.

The Attorney General Recommends a Civil Service Retirement Law for Classified Civil Service Employees in his Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 1911.

The salaries paid to members of the Classified Civil Service are not large, and they have, therefore, very little opportunity for saving. Some provision should be made by Congress by way of a retirement law to secure to faithful service over many years at least that ordinary meed of justice which is coming to be recognized as due from all private employers under similar circumstances. The professional members of the department know no hours; they have toiled early and late. I take pleasure in recording my appreciation of the untiring, earnest, loyal, and enthusiastic cooperation of both the professional and clerical force of the Department of Justice.

The National Civil Service Reform League on Superannuation.

This body recently held its annual meeting at Philadelphia when the question of superannuation was discussed at some length. The league's platform on superannuation is as follows:

"The principles that should control in the establishment of a system of retiring annuities for the civil employees of the United States are these:

"The annuities should be based principally upon compulsory contributions from the employee's salary invested by or under the supervision of the government, at a reasonable rate of interest compounded annually, will be sufficient to provide the annuity;

"The safety of the employee's savings and the reasonable rate of interest should be guaranteed by the government. Beyond this, the public treasury should be put to no considerable expense other than may be necessary or proper to establish the system and maintain its stability;

"An individual and separate account should be kept of the contributions of each employee. In case of his voluntary separation from the service before the age of retirement, these should be repaid to him either without interest or with simple interest at a low fixed rate.

"There are many and very important details but a system based upon and consistently applying these principles

"Will put no employee to expense for the benefit of other employees;

"Will make easy the retirement of the superannuated, for it provides for their support after separation from the service;

"Will tend to retain the energetic and competent, for it assures a sufficient compensation for long and faithful service;

"Will not tend to create any property right in the employee to his position and, on the contrary, will accelerate the dismissal of the lazy and the indifferently good, for on his separation from the service he will take with him all of his contributions.

"In order to establish this system successfully, the government should make such reasonable provision, at the cost of the public treasury, as, after due investigation shall seem