

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

Royal Commissions on the civil service seem to be the order of the day. Canada, New Zealand and South Africa have inquiries of the kind under way; so has Great Britain, and the British government now hands over the great Indian service to a similar process of investigation.

The terms of reference are as follows:—"To examine and report upon the following matters in connection with the Indian Civil Service, and other civil services, Imperial and Provincial:—

(1) The methods of recruitment and the system of training and probation;

(2) The conditions of service, salary, leave, and pension;

(3) Such limitations as still exist in the employment of non-Europeans, and the working of the existing system of divisions of services into Imperial and Provincial;

And generally to consider the requirements of the Public Service, and to recommend such changes as may seem expedient."

The Commission will be constituted as follows:—

The Right Hon. Lord Islington, K.C.M.G. (Chairman).

The Earl of Ronaldshay, M.P.

Sir Murray Hammick, K.C.S.I.; C.I.E., Indian Civil Service.

Sir Theodore Morison, K.C.I.E., Member of the Council of India.

Sir Valentine Chirol.

Frank George Sly, Esq., C.S.I., Indian Civil Service.

Mahadey Bhaskar Chaubal, Esq., C.S.I., Member of the Governor of Bombay's Executive Council.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Esq., C. I. E., Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

Walter Culley Madge, Esq., C.I.E., Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

Abdur Rahim, Esq., Judge of the Madras High Court.

James Ramsay Macdonald, Esq., M.P.

Herbert Albert Laurens Fisher, Esq., Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford.

The Minister termed it "a very difficult, arduous and lengthened investigation."

It is expected that the Commission will spend three months in India, commencing in December, and then, after sitting for a few months in London, will pay a second visit of three months' duration to India.

The *Civilian* (London, Eng.) discusses the situation in India with which the Commission will deal in the following interesting passage:

"It is expected that the position as regards the methods of recruitment for the Indian Civil Service will receive the greatest attention; but whether the Commission will adopt the long-suggested reform of simultaneous examinations in London and India is doubtful. It is admitted practically on all hands that reform is timely; the disadvantages of Indian students here, the need for the further promotion of higher education in India and the inequality in status as between the native Indian Civil Servant and the imported British official suggest themselves at once as the problems upon which the Commissioners will be engaged * * * The present system results, on the whole, in keeping Indians out of the higher branches of the Service no matter the advances made by Indians in the less impressive provincial administrations. * * * The rapid assimilation in India of Oriental idealism with Western materialism deserves to be studied. India is advancing rapidly, politically and economically, and it is as well that it should be admitted, that there is a growing spirit of nationality in India which is the direct product of British rule. To admit the progress of Indian Nationalism is not necessarily to imply a belief in the near approach of the British evacuation