

THE CIVILIAN

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of Canada.

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Communications on any subject of interest to
the Civil Service are invited and will re-
ceive careful consideration.

Ottawa, April 5, 1912

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The session of Parliament just closed has been productive of much legislation of a Civil Service nature which may properly be reviewed at a later date by *The Civilian*. As was not unexpected, the government, so recently taking up the reins of power, did not feel disposed to take up so large a measure as the subject of superannuation involves. The attitude of the government on this question, however, seems to be satisfactory.

There is one item of Civil Service legislation to which we desire for the moment to draw more particular attention. It is without doubt a subject for congratulation and gratification that the government has at last taken action in respect of the classification and salaries of the

Post Office Department. It will be recalled by our readers that some months ago the following appeared in our editorial columns respecting the Post Office Department.

"Some years ago an ambitious minister at the head of the Post Office evolved the idea of bringing that great utilitarian service into the category of 'legitimate revenue services.'

"None, except those on the inside, know to what extent this branch of the service has been starved in order to turn out a paltry surplus."

The relief comes none too soon nor is it general or immediate enough to compensate for the long years of neglect which have gone by. As the bill will operate, it is understood, a great number of the clerks in the department will not get any immediate advantage, but will have to wait for years to reach their new maximum. Some indemnity in consideration of the increased cost of living during past years when the salaries of Post Office officials have remained unchanged, would appear to *The Civilian* to be simply an act of justice and a recognition of special facts and considerations. For this department, though not to be sure fed on a diet below the poverty line, has been by a misapplied policy of economy kept below the level of greatest efficiency.

In the issue of March 8th *The Civilian* published the full text of the amendment to the Civil Service Act introduced by Hon. Mr. Pelletier. Since that time we have endeavoured to obtain the views of the Outside Division of the Post Office service, but without success so far as a general consensus of opinion is concerned. It gives us pleasure to report that so far as heard from the classification and schedules set down in the new act give satisfaction, but until fuller reports as to the application of the new conditions are made to the federation or to ourselves through our subscribers we are unable to say more than that it is a