

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. I.

JANUARY 15th, 1909

No. 19

The Income Tax.

The Situation as affected by the Civic Elections. — Course Pursued by the Association in the Elec- tions Justified the Results. — Personal Notes.

It is quite possible that the service may be spared the necessity of an appeal to the courts in connection with the income assessment.

If a majority of the members of the newly-elected city council keep faith with the Civil Service Association—and there is no reason to believe that they will not—the matter can be adjusted quietly, in a spirit of justice and with honour.

The action of last year's council, in permitting its officials to levy the assessment in violation of the terms of the agreement with the government, was a badly-advised and ill-considered one, and one which had the effect of leading the council into a position which was absolutely vulnerable from both an ethical and a legal standpoint. There can be no doubt that as a result of the campaign of education waged by THE CIVILIAN and the Association, this was fully realized by the time the election campaign was inaugurated.

The Association should lose no time in impressing upon the new council the necessity for a speedy adjustment of the matter. Nothing can be gained by delay, and it is most desirable that the uncertainty as to the position of the service in the matter shall be speedily dissipated and a feeling of confidence restored.

It is the purpose of THE CIVILIAN to continue its campaign on behalf of the service until the matter is finally disposed of. At this immediate juncture, however, it does not propose to offer the council any advice other than to suggest an immediate conference with government. As a party to the agreement the government must be consulted in any event, and the sooner this is done the sooner the ground will be cleared for final action.

If wise and honourable counsel prevails, the matter can be adjusted upon a legitimate basis and without injustice to either the community or the service.

* * *

There can be no doubt that the course pursued by the Association in taking part in the civic elections was a wise and prudent one. That there were some errors in judgment is not to be denied. In view of all the circumstances, it would be strange, indeed, if such were not the case. The greatest mistake of the campaign is undoubtedly to be found in the fact that the entire voting-strength of the service was not in evidence at the polls. It is time that the service learned to appreciate and to support the efforts of those who are devoting their time and energy to the accomplishment of the common welfare.