

## Why shouldn't Sir Wilfrid Laurier take a leaf out of President Taft's book?

**On the all important Question of Superannuation events are Moving Rapidly in the United States.—A great Example to the Canadian Government.**

A despatch sent out from Washington, D.C., under date of August 3, says:

Whether the clerks of the classified service in the executive departments of the Federal Government are to be retired on annuities made up by voluntary contributions on their part, will be decided by President Taft within the next few weeks. He has notified officials of the Treasury Department that he wants placed at his disposal all the data and figures bearing on the subject so that he may study them and decide what to say to Congress regarding the matter in his message upon the convening of the next session.

The Department will send to him at once the results of an extended investigation of conditions among the clerks, and with the various reports and tables of figures showing how money can be saved for the Government by the contributory annuity plan will be sent "a recommendation from the Secretary of the Treasury that Mr. Taft commend the scheme to Congress."

As an indication of what the outlook is for the President's acting in a manner emphatically favorable to the plan, is the additional fact that Charles D. Norton, now secretary to the President and thoroughly in his confidence took a great interest in the matter while he was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Before Mr. Taft left Washington he indicated his belief that the retirement plan was necessary, both to take care of the aged clerks and also to make the Administration of the Government's affairs more expeditious and economical. It was at a cabinet meeting shortly before the

adjournment of Congress that the suggestion was made that a "rider" be attached to an appropriation bill in Congress and that it be framed so as to authorize heads of departments to take the first steps toward the realization of the plan.

This was to be done by giving the members of the Cabinet discretionary power to retire superannuated clerks on annuities estimated at a certain per cent. of their salaries. The plan at first found favor in the eyes of the President, but he afterwards said he wanted further information before taking final action on the subject.

Since he went to Beverly there have gone to him stories that a considerable number of the clerks, both men and women, are opposed to the contributory method of accomplishing retirement because they do not want to lose any part of their salaries while they are working and meeting the expenses of living. This complaint is one of the things which moved the President to his determination to make a thorough study of the entire situation in mid-summer when he will have more time to look into it than he would have in Washington in the rush of routine work.

It is well known that Mr. Taft believes the salaries paid to Government clerks are too low in view of the recent tremendous increases in the cost of living. The supporters of the retirement plan claim that, through its operations, it will be possible to increase the salaries of the active workers, as the economy accomplished by having only younger workers will make up for the preliminary cost of instituting the retirement scheme.