

Salaries to Rise with Cost of Living.

Civil Service to be made the very best.

The above are the head lines of a newspaper report of the second reading of an act to amend the Civil Service Act of British Columbia. Although the original act was passed as late as 1909, the minister admits that "because of the high cost of living, many of our civil servants have been very much underpaid." The salary question must be kept to the fore so long as the upward tendency of prices continue, and the following from a Victoria paper will be of interest:

"The present act was passed in 1909 and it has been found that the principle adopted at that time was an excellent one in regard to the status of the civil service and the results produced in the work of that body," declared Hon. Dr. Young in moving the second reading of the bill to amend the Civil Service Act. "Experience has taught us that some changes must be made in the act to enable us to profit by our experience, and these are embodied in the present bill. It has been found that, because of the high cost of living, many of our civil servants have been very much underpaid. Under the amendments to the act all salaries of civil servants will be increased from \$15 per month. For example, junior clerks and stenographers hereafter will start at \$60 and will receive an increase of \$5 per annum until they reach \$80 per month instead of, as at present, starting at \$35 per month and increasing at the rate of \$4 per month until the maximum of \$75 is reached. Third-class clerks will start at \$90 per month and be increased to \$114 and the same ratio applies to the higher grades of clerks. In the estimates provision will be made for direct as well as merit increase. For

instance, if a third class clerk is receiving \$85 per month he will receive, under the amended act, an increase of \$15 per month, and if his services have been satisfactory, he will be entitled to an extra \$6 per month for merit, bringing his salary to a total of \$106 per month.

MAIN FEATURES OF BILL.

"These are the main features of the bill as far as the civil servants are concerned," continued Hon. Dr. Young. "It is the intention of the government to make the civil service of British Columbia a model one. We are satisfied that the effort of the civil servants have shown appreciation of what the government has done in the past, and it is felt that the increase in salaries will be more than repaid by the increased efficiency of the service in the future. The members of the civil service as a whole are a most reliable body and are doing good work.

"I hope that in time the government will be able to see its way clear to in some measure aid school teachers, the police and other outside employees who do not come within the scope of the civil service."