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Superannuation.—The Final Word.

The Civilian very willingly gives up the major portion of its space to-day to the presentation of the final appeal of the service for superannuation.

Not since the first memorial of the Ottawa Association has a document appeared, bearing the imprint of a civil service organization, in which the service as a whole may feel an equal amount of satisfaction. It is by such fruits that the organized service wins the respect of the government and justifies its existence.

The memorial, it will be seen, is made up of a temperate statement of the argument for superannuation, considered generally, with an addendum in the form of an expert estimate of the cost. It is the latter which constitutes the new and special contribution to the discussion. From first to last the cost of superannuation has been the great unknown factor in the problem—the stumbling block upon the threshold preventing practical consideration at the hands of the government. When a problem is ill defined it cannot be grappled with. Mr. Watson's memorandum brings this matter of cost out of the realms of the nebulous and enables the government and the service to see definitely where they stand. This in itself will probably be enough to determine whether and when and how we are to have superannuation. While undoubtedly the government will do its own figuring, the memorandum, being beyond question fair, should enable it to decide what its immediate policy will be.

For the Canadian civil service, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the presentation of these data to Mr. Fielding may well prove the beginning of a new epoch. It is a matter in which the service stands shoulder to shoulder without respect to class or locality. Naturally in the handling of the case the local association has taken the lead, but the sub-committee represents the Federation as well, and is authorized to speak for the service from coast to coast.

The committee handling the matter with the government consists of Dr. J. G. Rutherford, President of the Ottawa association; Dr. O. Higman, Chairman of the sub-committee on superannuation; Mr. R. H. Coats, Secretary of the C. S. Federation, and Mr. A. MacMillan.