

THE CIVILIAN

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of Canada.

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THE NATIONAL DUTY.

The great fact that stands out above all the rest is that this is a Peoples' War, a war for freedom and justice and self-government amongst all the nations of the world, a war to make the world safe for the peoples who live upon it and have made it their own, the German people themselves included; and that with us rests the choice to break through all these hypocrisies and patent cheats and masks of brute force and help set the world free, or else stand aside and let it be dominated a long age through by sheer weight of arms and the arbitrary choices of self-constituted masters, by the nation which can maintain the biggest armies and the most irresistible armaments—a power to which the world has afforded no parallel and in the face of which political freedom must wither and perish.

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Through all sorts of channels it (peace talk) has come to me, and in all sorts of guises, but never with the terms disclosed which the German Government would be willing to accept.

—Woodrow Wilson.

Our existence as a state is challenged. This is the supreme moment of our lives. We must face grimly what war always means,—life or death, success or defeat.

—R. B. Bennett.

NOW IS THE TIME.

A convention of the Civil Service Federation of Canada should be called at once and held at the earliest possible date.

In its last issue *The Civilian* stated the pros and cons of this proposition and asked for expressions of opinion thereon. Sufficient time has not elapsed for many opinions to be heard, but circumstances have changed materially in the last two weeks, and, in the judgment of *The Civilian*, the altered position of affairs demands the immediate attention of a full convention of the Federation. In this opinion the members of the Federation executive whom it has been possible to consult fully concur.

The proposal of the Government to at once bring the Outside Service under the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission is the most important event in Canadian public service history since the creation of the Commission in 1908, and is of hardly less revolutionary character. There was always the pretence of a merit system in the Inside Service, but, in the Outside, patronage has always been supreme. The permanent benefits which this action of the Government will confer, not only upon the Service but upon the whole country, will be so varied and far-reaching that their full extent can hardly be estimated at this time.

The inclusion of the Outside Service under the jurisdiction of the Commission will naturally be followed by many, if gradual, changes in administration. The Commission and the Government will give these changes careful study before putting them into effect. Decision must be based on the fullest and most reliable information that can possibly be secured, and who can give that information so well as the men whose lives are spent in the Service and who, by daily experience in their details as well as by careful study of their broader aspects, are the most inti-