

owing to weakness in cotton and certain manufactured goods. That portion of the *Economist's* statistics, however, relating to food products and articles of domestic consumption has shown little or no decline during the second half of 1907 and the opening months of 1908, from the high level of last spring, and the continued high price of foodstuffs all over the world has been made the subject of special comment by that eminent authority in a recent article.

There is one additional point to which the Association would like to invite your attention here. It is a fact that in the past ten years the volume of public business handled by the staffs of the various departments of Government has greatly increased in proportion to aggregate salaries paid. The Association bases this statement on an examination of the public accounts and annual reports of the several departments. Without entering at present into a detailed explanation, it begs to submit the following table as a fair indication of the circumstances in question:—

	1896—97	1905—06
Total Revenue, all Departments	\$ 37,829,778	\$ 80,139,360
Total Expenditure all Departments (Consolidated Fund, Capital Railway Subsidies and bounties)	42,972,775	83,277,641
Dominion \$100 & \$2.00 notes issued	2,668,000	11,928,000
Money Orders and Postal Notes paid	12,906,748	37,517,435
Savings Bank deposits, withdrawals and Interest	27,640,636	31,928,986
Aggregate Finances handled by all departments	\$ 124,017,937	\$ 244,791,422

	1896-97.	1905-06.
Aggregate Civil Service salaries (permanent and temporary) at Ottawa	1,518,815	2,559,407
Average cost of handling each \$1,000 of public business	12.24	10.45

The table takes into account, on the one hand, the finances handled by all the departments in the years 1896-97, and 1905-06 respectively, and on the other hand the gross amounts paid out in salaries at Ottawa. It shows that in the past ten years the cost of handling each \$1,000 of the public business has been reduced on salaries account alone from \$12.24 to 10.45.

These are the considerations which have been uppermost in the minds of the Civil Service Association in seeking the privilege of the present interview. There are many other subjects suggested by the recommendations of the Commission in which it is keenly interested. An example of special importance is the proposed superannuation measure and its relation to present as well as future members of the service. The reorganization of the classes is another very important question. On these, however, the Association does not touch to-day, trusting that an opportunity to do so may be granted in the future, should occasion warrant. Knowing, as it does, that the interests of the Government and of the service are one, the Association begs to offer you its cordial and loyal assistance, so far as may be in its power, in whatever action may now be undertaken by the Government. It is in this spirit that it has ventured as above to emphasize anew the need of an immediate and liberal adjustment of the scale of salaries throughout the service to the conditions which have arisen since