

# THE CIVILIAN

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THE BOARD OF EDITORS,

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Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Nov. 6th, 1908

"TODAY TO THEE; TOMORROW TO ME."

To-night will be held the Annual Convention of the Civil Service Association, when the officers will be chosen and the several departments announce the result of their election of representatives. Of the latter, there is published in another column of this issue as complete a list as could be obtained in advance.

To the delegates who will attend to-night's convention, a word while there is yet time:

The officers of such an Association as ours must furnish the motive-power for the machine. Other members of the Executive may be men of ideas and resourcefulness, but, if they are not supported by the official heads they may find themselves shorn of much of their power for good. In

other words, the titular leaders should be the real leaders, if the service is to get full value from its Association.

There will be most important work to do during the coming year. The Executive will scarcely have assumed office before being met by its first plain duty of furthering the cause of the service with the Government. But long before the Salary, Re-organization, and Superannuation question are finally laid at rest, the keels of many another goodly ship should be a-laying. The standing committees should be struck early, and given to understand that they are appointed for a purpose. Several of the special committees of the retiring Executive, although appointed months ago, have never reported, and were never censured for not reporting. There should be a group of Internal Economy committees, specially charged with branches of work initiated for the Common Good. The tree is large, and the branches numerous: How to acquire permanent assembly-rooms for the service? How to promote better sanitation, ventilation and lighting in Government offices? How to accomplish a federation of Canadian civil servants? How to spread a knowledge of things desirable to be known,—as Civil Service Insurance? How to deal with the Income Tax and Municipal question generally? Then there is Co-operation in its general and special bearings,—a wide subject, needing very careful consideration. Let us hope that the Executive will be successful in discovering what is sane and feasible in the movement, rejecting what is unsafe and impracticable.

The above sketch is, moreover, only a vague outline,—a part merely of the heavy grist that is even now lying on the floors of the Association mill. Seeing which, the delegates to this evening's Convention will contribute, we doubt not, their quota to the Common Good, thus enabling the Association not only to command success, but to deserve it.