

a few end their careers in the House of Lords—an utter impossibility if their position had been indistinguishable from that of another. One of the first fruits of civil service reform in Canada, therefore, will be the gradual separation of the Minister from the Deputy Minister, and the gradual elevation of the Deputy's position to a place distinct from that of his political chief, the latter requiring nothing of him save an efficient engine to his hand in the policy to which the government is bound. The Act of the past session goes far to set this process in motion. It does not go all the way, however, till a definite understanding is arrived at as to the offices which still remain a matter of ministerial appointment—until clause 21, in short, is given its interpretation. That the interpretation will be in the spirit that animated the legislation as a whole we have every reason to expect, knowing the policy of the government in the matter, backed by the certainty that if the commissioners permit a loose ruling to go forth they will be tying their own hands if not committing official suicide. A political appointment under clause 21 will be just as damaging as one under clause 13.

CIVIL SERVICE FEDERATION OF CANADA.

The subject of the confederation of the civil service of Canada has been frequently referred to in *THE CIVILIAN*, and recent events go to show that practical results are imminent. Word has been received from Winnipeg, Vancouver and Victoria, evincing a live interest in the formation of the new central body. The Yukon contingent may seek mem-

bership in the British Columbia Association as it will probably be too small numerically to attain membership alone. In New Brunswick, organization has already been completed, and in Nova Scotia an association will be formed in the near future. A unique incentive to the federation movement is presented in the resolution recently passed by the Dominion Civil Service Association (in Europe) which reads as follows:—"that this association express its desire to affiliate with the Civil Service Federation of Canada, and authorize the executive committee to make arrangements accordingly, and if necessary before the next general meeting to appoint some suitable person as delegate to such Federation." J. Obed Smith is the president of this association. With the addition of the Customs, Post Office and Excise organizations a fairly representative meeting of Canada's public service will meet in convention, it is hoped, during the present winter.

In the ninth number of *THE CIVILIAN*, a provisional constitution of the Federation was published. These proposed rules are now being printed in neat booklet form, and several thousand will be struck off for distribution among the members of all known or prospective associations of Canadian civil servants.

A federation of all the civil servants of Canada cannot be compared, except relatively, to the Confederation of the provinces of Canada, but in the purposes to be attained, development within, and standing and reputation abroad, the ideals to be achieved are not unlike. One of the first items on the order paper of the new body will, no doubt, be a determined agitation for bringing the outside service under the authority of the Civil Service Commission.