

# THE CIVILIAN

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## The New Order

**The old order changeth giving place to the new.—But not forthwith. — The Personnel of the Commission. — Some Aspects of Reform. — The good work of the Association.**

On Tuesday of the coming week the sun will probably rise in the east over Ottawa and proceed to mount in the usual way, much as if nothing new or startling were going forward. There are sturdy pessimists in the civil service who in their ingrained hopelessness, the fruit of many years, declare that nothing very new or startling *will* be going forward. We cannot share that unbelief. We are of the school that accepts things as they profess to be, till they are proved very decidedly the contrary. We would voice the hope and gratitude of all who frankly and absolutely expect on Tuesday next no other thing than Civil Service Reform, and that the veil of the temple of the old and superceded law will be rent forever in twain.

The change upon the surface will be less marked than circumstances might have made it. Automatically, in the first instance, all but a few will drop into the corresponding rank and salary of the new order, and for a time the alteration will be one of name alone. A fortnight ago we had thought that the reorganization, which is no less clearly enjoined by the act, would similarly have been ready to take effect the moment the hour of the new era had struck. But it has happened very much otherwise. There is apparently as much uplifting of the eyebrows and as much turning of the

head to slumber over the meaning of the new Act in this important matter as there was a month ago. THE CIVILIAN has not persuaded the Deputy Ministers in the slightest. THE CIVILIAN's explanation was no more than Mr. Fisher's; but that has apparently made no difference. The organization matter is still tied neck and heels so far as concerted action is concerned among the departments. One hears from day to day of ever new and strenuous efforts, now here, now there, to burst the bonds; but so far without avail. Of course, nothing more is involved than a period of delay, for the new measure apparently foresaw the potentialities for humour in the situation and wisely left the reorganization to be perfected "as soon as practicable after the coming into force of the Act."

### The Commissioners.

In many ways the most important announcement to be made in connection with the coming into force of the Act is still at the time of writing in abeyance. No definite word with respect to the personnel of the commissioners has yet been made public. Rumour has been rife as usual, and among the names that have been mentioned as under consideration are two or three of gentlemen at present at the heads of departments. This would be to carry out the suggestion