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The Federation and Civil Service Bills

One of the main purposes to be served by civil servants in electing presidents and other officers as their titular representatives is to provide the connecting link between the Government and the Service. This function on the part of the said officers has never been more necessary than at the present time. The officers of the Federation opened communication with Mr. White early in the present session, but the minister's illness, and the following stress of urgent business, postponed a formal meeting until Wednesday, March 11th. The secretary of the Federation, in making formal application to Mr. White that he receive the final expression of opinions and views from the organized service, emphasized an attitude on the part of the service which may be quoted for the benefit of those far away geographically from the scene of action:—

“It is some eight years since Civil Servants seriously undertook the task of studying the problems relating to the personnel of the service, insofar as it is permissive to them so to do. Since that time the impression has existed, and still exists, that the Government does not utilize the information gathered by the sub-committees of the societies; that is to say, there is no divining-rod or connecting-link between the Government (as a whole) and the great army of over 50,000 or 60,000 servants of the Crown (as a whole). While these servants, organized in meetings, are sometimes compelled to refer to remuneration, their thoughts are above money, and their ideals are inspired by a high sense of duty and love of country.”

At the meeting with Mr. White on the 11th instant there were present representatives from the several branches of the service. Mr. White discussed civil service matters with

the delegation for an hour, taking occasion to point out some of the difficulties in the way of attaining perfect conditions in such a large body. The most practical outcome of the interview, so far as such may be given publicity, was the minister's agreement, if nothing intervened to prevent, to submit the C. S. Act to a committee of the House of Commons, empowered to receive evidence from officers of civil service organizations or others. This excellent idea was suggested by Mr. Todd, Secretary of the Ottawa Association. He also asked that a memorandum embracing the final word of the service on matters that may be incorporated in the C. S. Act be prepared for him. After this interview the Secretary of the Federation sent telegrams to all its component units within reasonable distance, urging them to come to Ottawa, notices being also sent out for a meeting of the executive of the Federation for Monday evening, 16th inst. The Customs Department put in a first appearance on Sunday morning last, and all day long held an emergency session discussing their complex problem. The visitors on behalf of the Customs Service were: Chas. Watt, Chatham, N.B.; E. Giroux, Montreal; P. J. Mailloux, Quebec; O. S. Clewlo, Toronto; G. A. Clark, Bridgeburg; John Burns, Niagara Falls, and R. Colvin, Hamilton. This force was augmented by a large contingent of enthusiasts from the local office on Queen street. At the time of writing the Customs delegates had just arrived at their final conclusions, but submission of their petition to the minister has been