

The Memorial of the Civil Service Association to the Prime Minister.

On Thursday, April the 16th, a deputation of four representatives of the executive of the Civil Service Association of Canada was accorded the privilege of an interview with the Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Association, which, as all are aware, came into being shortly after the appointment of the Royal Commission on the civil service last year, has hitherto confined its efforts to the presentation, in as cogent form as possible, of the case of the service before the commission, and to the perfecting of its organization and working methods. The interview with the Premier was solicited in view of the publication of the commissioners' report, and the expected action of the Government in that connection. For the sake of expedition and precision, the requests of the Association were submitted in the form of a written memorial addressed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier as the head of the Government. It is with great pleasure that THE CIVILIAN, through the courtesy of the Prime Minister and the Association, is able to publish below the full text of the memorial, the general nature of which, as will be seen, is supplementary to the more extended statements presented to the commissioners in June and October last:

*To the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.G., &c.,
Prime Minister of Canada:*

Sir,—

The Civil Service Association of Canada, in approaching you for the first time as the head of the Government, begs leave to express its deep appreciation of the interest you have taken in the well-being of the service, as evidenced by the appointment in May, 1907, of a Royal Commission to enquire into all matters pertaining to its organization and efficiency.

The Association has already, on two occasions, availed itself of the privilege of giving full expression to its views before your Commissioners. Since that time the report of the Commission has been issued and you have announced in Parliament, to the great satisfaction of the service, that the Government will proceed to the consideration of its findings at such time as the pressing business of the country will allow. It is in connection, more particularly, with the latter statement and the keen interest of the service in the progress of the Government's deliberations in this regard that the Association has sought the courtesy of an interview with you to-day.

The Association, on both of the occasions on which it offered evidence before the Commission, referred at length and in detail to the remarkable and, in fact, wholly unprecedented increase which has taken place during the past ten years in the cost of living in Canada. The matter has been and continues to be of such immediate urgency to every member of the service that the Association trusts, notwithstanding the strong words with which your Commissioners have corroborated its previous statements, and which might well seem to render additional emphasis unnecessary, that you will allow one further brief representation on this all-important subject.

On the first of the occasions above referred to, the Association submitted the results of an extended enquiry into the trend of the cost of living during the past ten years. The figures which were then compiled were based on actual retail prices paid by residents of Ottawa for commodities and services—not on wholesale prices, which are of secondary value as reflecting living expenses; they were as comprehensive as it was possible to make them, so as to avoid all semblance of picking and choosing; they were absolutely truthful, being for the most part from the written records of local dealers, and they were