

# 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, Dec. 4th, 1908**

## SUPERANNUATION: TO A CORRESPONDENT.

In our last issue appeared a communication from one signing himself "Old Timer," upon the subject of Superannuation. Briefly put, the plaint of the writer is that the Royal Commission's Superannuation Bill does not go far enough. He admits, we believe, that the measure is a satisfactory one for all normally-situated civil servants, but he objects that it does not specifically cover the case of those who have been transferred from the Outside to the Inside Service.

We suspect that our correspondent has not followed the discussions which have taken place upon this subject. The point raised by him, far from having escaped notice, was referred to by the Royal Commission; it was considered, we are sure, when the Bill was drafted; and it has been discussed

publicly in the columns of THE CIVILIAN. In No. 2 of that Periodical (under date May 22nd, 1908: *vide* paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of the article "Superannuation"), the need for a remedy is recognized; and in No. 4 (June 19th, 1908), the matter is discussed at some length, and a solution proposed. If "Old Timer" will do us the honour to peruse the passages referred to, he will see that his own proposal, among others, has been considered; thus again illustrating the saying that there is nothing new under the sun.

The whole service is interested in seeing the *principle* of Superannuation, which for ten long years has lain buried, resurrected and re-affirmed. It would be a calamity, therefore, if that most desirable object should be endangered because a certain percentage of the service occupying a peculiar position, insist upon having incorporated in the Bill a retroactive provision of wide scope, and with regard to which grave differences of opinion will almost certainly arise. We can state positively that this consideration was present to the minds of the commissioners when their report was being prepared, and that the Bill itself was framed upon the assumption that what was special and controversial ought not to stand side by side with what may fairly be said to admit of no dispute. How, for example, would our correspondent deal with the members of Funds I. and II. who may desire to be transferred to the new Fund? What expedient would he suggest in the case of those now on the Retirement Fund, who, desiring to contribute to Superannuation from the present time only, demand a return of the sums to their credit in the Retirement Fund? How would he advise the government to deal with those who do not want Superannuation at all (until they get older and see the "imminent deadly breach" before them), but desire the Retirement Fund continued? We aver that there are civil servants who desiderate all of these things. And