

shy at the idea of living a little out of the city, and if you're a married man, Mr. Editor, with grown daughters, I need not remind you that what they say goes, and the old folk must perforce acquiesce.

As friend X.Y.Z. remarks, it's easy to imagine difficulties, and I like the scheme too well to wish to do that; indeed I am willing to lend a hand in working out the idea to the point where we may be better able to judge of its feasibility.

In the meantime, may I ask X.Y.Z. if he has any knowledge of the plan under which the building societies work in the Old Country. These have been in operation for very many years and tens of thousands of salaried men own their own homes to-day who would never have possessed a brick without their aid. One great advantage I see in the building society scheme would be that you would not be tied down to one locality, but could pick your land and even your house—possibly the very one you are living in—and then go ahead and buy it on terms within your reach.

Let's hear again from X.Y.Z., — he's on the right track.

A. B. C.

The Victorian State Service Professional Association writes.

Lands Department, Melbourne,
Victoria, Aus., 26th Jan., 1912.

Dear Sir,—Through Mr. Ross of the Canadian Government Agency in this city we have obtained valuable information on superannuation, etc., and the Canadian Government annuities. Also copies of the Canadian Civil Service Journal—*The Civilian*.

We would be greatly favored if you would forward particulars regarding the superannuation scheme submitted by your Council to the Government of Canada. Also any information bearing on the subjects included in the list of our activities—vide report under separate cover.

You will observe that the Central Council Scheme, outlined in the re-

port before mentioned, aims at the organisation of the various Associations representing classes in the Service. The services in the States of New South Wales and West Australia have already associations representative of all classes of public servants and when this state is on a similar footing the time will be ripe for the formation of a Council similar to yours.

It is desired by this association to open up communications with similar bodies throughout the Empire. This would tend to a better understanding of conditions in the various services, thus leading to mutual benefit and help. To this end we trust you will give the support of your powerful organisation.

In conclusion we desire on behalf of this association to express best wishes for the success of your Council, and for a wider extension of knowledge and good fellowship throughout the public services of the Empire.

Yours sincerely,

A. S. KENYON,
President.

A. McD. MARTIN,
Hon. Secretary.

An "Old Timer" writes on Promotions.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I have observed by *The Civilian* in the last few months that the appointment or promotion of private secretaries of Cabinet Ministers to permanent positions in the Government Departments is a vexed question with members of the Civil Service. The position of private secretary is not in the catalogue of political patronage, and unlike the microbe-drone it is not injected into but grafted on to the civil service system.

Fifty years ago there was only a corporal's guard in any branch of a Government Department, whereas today there are probably two hundred men and women employed in the department. The promotion or