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Past and Future.

Almost simultaneously with this number of *The Civilian* there is being issued to the members of the inside service at Ottawa the formal report of the executive of the C. S. Association for the year ended Nov. 1st. Though directly of interest to the Ottawa service alone, we believe this document should obtain a wide reading and a careful consideration by civil servants in every portion of the Dominion, for it is not only a record of substantial achievement by an important branch of the service, but a powerful witness to the amount of hard work which is necessary in such a field if we are to expect results. Any branch of the civil service which imagines that victories are won by chance could do nothing better than to read this document very carefully and to ponder upon the moral of the success of the Ottawa association which is to be found between the lines.

Without attempting the unnecessary task of a review, special reference may be made to the number of matters on which the executive has done excellent work, but which it has been forced to hand over to its successor. The most important of these, including several which involve the making of representations to the government, have been thrown into the form of a memorial which will be submitted to the service at the earliest moment possible. Mention of this may bring us to consider the future.

The annual meeting of the association takes place on Tuesday next, the 9th inst. It will be held in the new headquarters building at 75

Mackenzie avenue, and the members will be lenient if the arrangements are not in every respect perfect. Apart from general business, the chief item of which is a very thorough revision of the constitution, perhaps the most interesting item will be the election of officers. And here a brief word will be pardoned.

The officers should possess two qualifications: First, they should be thoroughly representative civil servants and in complete sympathy with the highest and best aspirations of their fellow workers. In the second place they must be chosen with a view to the fact that one of their chief duties will be to act as the official mouthpiece of the association, and they should be men therefore who will command the respect and confidence of the government.

A second point demanding careful thought is the personnel of the general executive. The first important item of business following the annual meeting is the election of the Departmental representatives. We would urge that the interval be employed in the most careful consideration in each Department of who the representative is to be. The C. S. A. executive of the coming year will have to consider at least two of the knottiest problems that have arisen in the history of the service. Either the reorganization or the superannuation question if improperly handled can bring discredit and demoralization upon the association. The committee should be twenty-five of the very best men in the service.