

In directing the attention of the Government to a matter of such importance we may be allowed to review very briefly the present situation. All members of the Permanent Service who were appointed since the year 1898, including all persons transferred from the Outside to the Inside Service, are now without Superannuation. This large body of persons is subject instead to the Retirement Act. We are from intending any disrespect to the framers of that Act, but we venture the statement that no one can examine the matter closely without becoming convinced that the Retirement Act will never accomplish the objects hoped for from it,—that it can never, in a word, take the place of a Superannuation measure. We will not attempt to demonstrate this, as we think it can be demonstrated, by the use of figures. That has already been done more than once, and particularly for the Royal Commission, whose report contains some careful and convincing calculations bearing upon this point. If the savings bank principle which lies at the root of the Retirement Act be a proper substitute for Superannuation, why, it may be asked, have not our banks adopted it for their staffs?—for they possess unrivalled facilities for practising it within their very walls. And yet every important bank in Canada has its Pension Fund.

And not only have all the important banks their Pension Funds,—to say nothing of the vast majority of civilized governments,—but all the important railways and nearly all large industrial corporations likewise have theirs. During the last few years, at least, seventy-five among the large corporations doing business on this continent have declared for the principle, by establishing superannuation funds of their own. It is an unanswerable inference from these facts, that the corporations in question must consider it good business to maintain superannuation funds; and, as a matter of fact we know that it is not philanthropy that urges them to this course, but an assurance that thus only can the efficiency of their staffs be maintained. All the reasons that prompt private corporations to establish superannuation funds apply with even great force in the case of such a body as the Civil Service. To re-establish Superannuation is not alone to confer a boon upon Civil Servants; it will confer a much greater boon upon the Government in its main-