

**Correspondence.**

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.

**Superannuation for All.**

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

I know that it is the desire of your paper to be thoroughly representative of the Outside as well as the Inside Service and I have observed many articles dealing with matters connected with the former. Now, one of the burning questions in the Outside Service—as it is in the Inside—is Superannuation. At last it is said that we are within hailing distance of an Act on the subject—but for the Inside Service only. Or am I wrong? Is it the intention of those who are agitating in the matter to have the less fortunate brethren of the Outside Service brought in to share in the advantages of the legislation which is to be enacted?

An answer to this question, Mr. Editor, will be read with intense interest by hundreds of officials all over Canada.

Yours,

OUTSIDER.

[*The Civilian* can see no argument whatever for a measure of superannuation that will apply only to a part of the service—whether inside or outside. If superannuation is a proper device at all it is on the grounds of efficiency and economy, and the larger the field to which it is applied the larger the gains under both these headings and the greater the inducement offered by its adoption. Certainly every plea put forward by this paper—as indeed every memorial presented by the civil service bodies—has been on the basis of the universal need of superannuation throughout the service. Moreover we have good grounds for believing that no less comprehensive scheme would receive consideration by the government.—Ed.]

**The Titanic and Death.**

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Sir,—The past month has been a solemn one, full of meaning to thinking humanity. In the pride of human progress and the rejoicing of human scientific achievement we received a terrific shock and rebuke to all our pride and rejoicing in the fatal calamity that has overtaken the ship Titanic. It is not a time for harsh criticism and fault-finding, but a time for humiliation, modesty, sorrow, mourning, and prayer, and, withal, thankfulness. We have been reminded with a reality that cannot be questioned that the forces of nature are supreme and titanic, even unto death, when in conflict with the works of man.

It is many years since I ceased to regard physical death as other than one of the benevolent institutions of God—an institution by which humanity and all living creatures, in time and place, are released and relieved from pain and suffering. Who can look upon death, in whatever way it may overtake us, as a curse and mode of punishment without impugning the wisdom and benevolence of God, who is the author of death?

It is a law of nature that all men will die. Why? Because in all past experience by the human race, whether by ordinary effluxion of time or titanic catastrophe, death has uniformly occurred. The fossil remains of every stratum of the earth's crust, long before man appeared upon this earth, prove that life and death were, and are still, the order and law of nature.

Every day of our thinking lives we see that death is essential to life and life essential to death, and are both alike essentials as the two arms of the balance by which equilibrium in nature is maintained and sustained. It is as natural to die as to be born, and probably to the aged in that period of second infancy or mere oblivion less painful than to the newly-born infant.