

WILL SOMEONE KINDLY REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING ?

The United States Consular Reports, prepared by the Department of Commerce and Labour from data supplied by Consular Agents of the Republic, form a most useful series of documents. That which deals with the trade of Canada for the year 1907 is a compilation which well deserves the study of those who desire a knowledge of our commerce and economic conditions. The report in question analyzes very carefully the sources and destination of our imports and exports, respectively; and draws valuable conclusions based upon an intelligent survey of the figures and collation of the information gathered by the Consuls from the length and breadth of our country. Of special interest to ourselves is the fact that the report to Parliament of the Royal Commission on the Canadian Civil Service receives notice. The now-famous, but abortive, recommendation of increases to service salaries of 15 and 12½ per cent. for Eastern Canada, and of 25 and 20 per cent. for Western Canada, is quoted. It is remarked by the Chief of the Bureau, Mr. Carson, in his introduction to the volume, that the complaint of increased cost of living is quite general in Canada, and the cause is attributed partly to a gradual equalization of prices in Canada to those in the United States.

Be that as it may, the existence of the condition itself is not doubted by the United States officials. Thus the chain of evidence and of conviction, domestic and foreign, is complete. There remains only one request for civil servants to make of the Government: Will it, of its clemency, have the goodness to reduce the cost of living ?

A RENDEZVOUS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

The many organizations springing up in the civil service are a source of satisfaction to all members of that body who feel an interest in their own welfare and who possess sufficient *esprit de corps* to care for the consolidation of interests. It is apparent that in order to perpetuate and to perfect the bodies that have arisen and that may hereafter arise, it is desirable and almost necessary that civil servants have a suitable rendezvous or meeting place. At present they have none.

Under arrangement instituted by the last and continued by the present Ontario Government, the civil servants at Toronto enjoy the benefits of what is practically a civil servant lunch-room. The Ontario Government allows a caterer to use a large room in the Parliament Building, with kitchen and paraphernalia. The charge to civil servants for luncheon is 25c, and to others 35c. This would be a capital thing for Ottawa civil servants. Each summer a large number of civil service householders move to the country, and the civil servant thus left without a home takes his lunch at one of the various city lunch counters or as best he can. At such a common meeting place as a civil service lunch room, all kinds of sub-committee meetings might be held, views exchanged and plans originated and perfected in connection with our various organizations. This would result in great saving of time and expedition of business. At the present time the service has not even a committee room that they can call their own. The executive of the C. S. A. has a very convenient meeting place by courtesy of the Labor Department. But the Athletic Association is not so fortunate. It is not always convenient to meet in the after-