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A Board of Appeal.

Under the new Public Service Act of the Dominion of New Zealand, a Board of Appeal over the heads of the C. S. Commissioners has been instituted. The Civilian prints below an editorial on the subject from the Katipo which will be found instructive.

We have already been at some pains to emphasize the importance of the Appeal Board which has been created by the Public Service Act, but, believing as we do, the clause which elaborates the powers of that Board to be the key to the whole Act as far as the Civil Service is personally concerned we offer no apology for again giving prominence to the subject. The future of the Public Service Act and the benefits it is hoped to confer on the taxpayer are not our immediate concern, although as taxpayers we have an interest in that connection too. But the Act touches "nearer home" with us than with any section of the body politic, and it is this special interest that we are bound to recognize. We may all therefore reflect with some degree of satisfaction that our immediate personal interests have been so fully recognized as they have been in the Board of Appeal established by the Act. The scope of that Board is made as wide as the individual could reasonably desire, while the character and dignity conferred on the Board by making its decisions final are such that even the severest critic of the Post and Telegraph Appeal Board may find occasion to welcome.

To our mind, after perusing the Act with a view to understanding its detail as well as its leading features, nothing augurs better for the object that the politicians responsible had in view and for the objects which our

Association has kept to the fore for twenty years than the Appeal Board clauses.

Improper influences in obtaining advancement or benefits have never escaped criticism either in or out of the Service, but the "influence" clause of the Act would, in our opinion, only partially fulfil its mission if the means of redress opened up by the Appeal Board clause had been absent. Without the Appeal Board the interpretation of the "influence" clause would rest solely with the Commissioners, who while doubtless as anxious as anybody to properly interpret their duty in this respect may perhaps fail to recognize these insidious forms of influence which occasionally have made their presence felt in times past.

But now the man who is aggrieved by the use of improper influence—who has been passed over by, say, a man of equal merit but of less service—may lay a case of redress before the Commissioner, and if the Commissioner's decision is not what he can reasonably desire he can have recourse to the Appeal Board. If the Board holds that he has a sound case then the Commissioner must officially reverse his opinion and grant the redress sought for.

In the interests of everybody concerned nothing can be more satisfactory than this, for no one in his heart of hearts does not desire that justice shall prevail.