

# THE CIVILIAN

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## Superannuation Next in Order.

**The Government well-disposed to Consider Reasonable Views.—The Question should be pressed this Session.—Prudent decision of the C. S. Association as to Policy to be Pursued.**

Everyone who has borne a part during recent months in preparing or presenting the case of the service must be aware that during the past year a great change has occurred in the relations between the government and the service. Time out of mind, the practice of governments was to take this or that action with regard to the service solely of their own initiative; generally at long intervals, when the need for action had become acute; and often without any proper enquiry as to the true conditions. For the service to presume to make itself heard upon the point at issue would have been regarded as a striking novelty,—almost as an impertinence. Everyone else in the country was accustomed to be heard when any measure affecting him was to the fore. But the service, like a ward in chancery, was expected to sit very quiet, unless it chose now and then to ejaculate a "thank you, kind sirs; thank you." It had always been treated with rather less consideration than the eighteen tailors who once upon a time waited on Elizabeth Tudor, only to receive from that able and satirical lady the salutation, "Good morning, gentlemen *both!*" But

though nine men of the service had less influence than one outsider, we may freely acquit our Canadian statesmen, past and present, of any desire to suppress the views of such a large body of citizens. The fact is that the service had itself almost solely to blame. Without organization, or articulate voice, how could it hope to bear any important part? Any supposition to the contrary is refuted by the circumstance that as soon as the service became organized, and could speak in a representative capacity, the government listened to its views and gave them every consideration.

### Things Well Done and—Not So Well

But without speculating further upon first causes, we may congratulate ourselves upon the change of relations itself. During the past year, a new attitude was displayed by the government towards the service. The service spoke with a certain authority; the government harkened to its representations, and gave effect to such of them as seemed to it reasonable. The result, beyond question, was advantageous to both, and certainly the service is deeply indebted