

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. VIII.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1915.

No. 11

CONVENTION OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONS.

Eighth Meeting of the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissions of the United States.

When the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissions gathered at Los Angeles, California, on June 16, 1915, it welcomed to its midst for the first time in its history a representative from the Dominion of Canada. This representative was Mr. William Foran, Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, who thus inaugurated a new era of Civil Service reciprocity and co-operation between the Dominion and its neighbor to the South. That the new departure met with the approval of the Assembly is shown, not only by the fact that Mr. Foran was chosen as chairman of the Committee on Superannuation, member of the Committee on Resolutions, and member of the Executive Committee, but that next year, by unanimous vote, the National Assembly will convene in Ottawa, bringing in its train the representatives of Civil Service Commissions throughout the United States, as well as those efficient advocates and upholders of the merit movement, the members of the Civil Service Reform League.

The Assembly this year represented some three hundred commissioners—national, State and Municipal—as well as kindred organizations whose aim is the practical development of the merit system. Among the delegates present at Los Angeles were such well known exponents of scientific Civil Service reform as Dr. Henry Moskovitz, President of the New York City Commission; H. N. Saxton, Chief Examiner of the New

York State Commission; F. E. Doty, Secretary of the Los Angeles County Commission, and newly elected President of the National Assembly; Robert Catherwood, of Chicago; W. W. Grant, Jr., Colorado State Commissioner; J. E. Burdette, President Illinois State Commission; H. N. Shepard, Boston; George H. Burke, New Jersey; Chas. G. Morris, President Connecticut State Commission; C. L. Baxter, Seattle; and George T. Keyes, Secretary of the National Civil Service Reform League.

The Assembly was formally opened on June 16 when State Senator Stanley H. Benedict welcomed the delegates on behalf of Governor Hiram Johnson of California. Response was made on behalf of President Boyle, of Boston, who was unfortunately unable to be present, by the Honourable Harvey N. Shepard, of the Massachusetts State Commission. Then followed four days crowded with addresses, discussions and conferences, in which the expert knowledge of the specialists present was freely presented to the delegates. Judging from the newspaper reports, one of the most interesting addresses given was that delivered by Mr. Foran on "The Operation of the Canadian Civil Service Act." Among the numerous items presented for discussion was the Model Civil Service Law presented in these columns some time ago. A unique experiment which aroused great interest in the Assembly was the presentation to the