

sent conditions and the broad question of Civil Service Reform are at all separate in essence.

"In the view of the Association, the salary question is a fundamental part of the larger problem of Civil Service Reform, lying indeed on the very threshold of any comprehensive plan of amelioration of existing conditions. It is in this, we feel, that the force of our petition, from the standpoint of the Government and of the country, wholly rests,—namely, that it is based not on self-interest but on the good of the service, the solution of the cost of living problem being in the finding of the Commission an indispensable requisite of reform. No one could be more convinced than we of the great benefits that will accrue from the new Act; but we no less firmly believe that if provision be not made at once for the large number of civil servants who have been and who are suffering from the present abnormal situation, the proposed reform will encounter at the outset a blight which will delay its full fruition for many years. We would accordingly bespeak your favourable consideration of the proposal that the Government should bring down a measure that will provide the relief that is so urgently needed. * * *

This letter probably constitutes the final action of the Association, for the present, with respect to the salary question. Having proved the justice of its claims, as witnessed by the report of the Royal Commission; having twice, in dignified terms, acquainted the First Minister with the seriousness of the situation, the Executive has discharged its full duty in so far as it could hope to influence the action of the government during the present session of parliament.

On the 6th instant, the memorial committee of the Association addressed another letter to the Hon. Mr. Fisher again directing his attention to the fear entertained that provisions

of section 6 of the bill would prevent the reorganization contemplated by section 8; that clause 38 would, in a somewhat similar manner, operate against the interests of that section of the outside service which is to be transferred to the inside, and asking that some provision be made to prevent this.

Reference was also made to the amendment proposed by the Minister, providing that any person placed in the third division upon the coming into force of the Act, might by the Governor-in-Council, upon the recommendation of the head of the department, based upon the report of the deputy head and accompanied by a certificate from the commission, be promoted to the second division without an open competitive examination. The Association's hearty approval of the amendment was expressed. It was pointed out to Mr. Fisher that if the objections urged against his amendment, during the debate in the House, were allowed to prevail, an apparent injustice would be done those who have rendered efficient service for years, and who are still in their prime for intelligence and practical work, by compelling them to submit to an open competitive examination with young men fresh from college or high school.

The amendments to sections 6 and 38 were not conceded and as this phase of the matter is dealt with elsewhere in this issue it would be superfluous to make further reference to it here. It is highly satisfactory to note, however, that the Minister pressed his amendment with reference to the promotion of clerks of the third division.

The principal changes which have been made in the bill may be enumerated as follows:

1. The commissioners have been given the same status as the Auditor-General and can be removed only upon