

Meanwhile the Commission should endeavour to get into even closer touch than it has yet done with the Schools and Universities of Canada, and endeavour to persuade their leaders and their students that a position in the Civil Service is not the

last refuge of the destitute, but an opportunity for a man's full work, all the nobler because it is in the service of the land we love. I have had pupils of mine talk of not wishing to enter the Civil Service in the tone in which the British workingman was

accustomed to speak of the work-house. To this pass has Patronage brought us. *Ecrasez l'infâme!*

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THE WAR BONUS

Civil Service Federation Interviews the Government. Sir George Foster, Acting Prime Minister, Promises Consideration. A "Shepherd" of Personnel Promised.

IN the last issue of *The Civilian* the memorial presented to the Government asking for a war bonus of \$350 for each member of the Civil Service was published in full. The meeting with the ministers of the Crown at which the memorial was submitted and statements in support of it made by chosen representatives was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 8. Though the subject is one of vast importance to every member of the Service, yet, in view of the fact that the results of the interview have been made known very widely through the daily press of Ottawa and other cities, and of the further fact that space is needed to chronicle later developments in this and other matters, only a summary of the proceedings is here attempted.

That the occasion was regarded as one of urgency by the Civil Service goes without saying; but, if proof were needed, it was given in the fact that the delegation was one of the largest to wait upon the Government this year and in the further fact that the memorial was signed by so many organizations representative of practically the entire Service. That the Government takes the question seriously and that it desired to recognize the importance of the occasion was proven by the large number of ministers in attendance, by the long time given to the hearing of the case, and by the close attention with which the proceedings were followed by practically every minister present. The following members of the Cabinet received the delegates: Rt. Hon. Sir George E. Foster, Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Trade and Commerce; Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice; Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labour; Hon. A. L. Sifton, Minister of Customs; Hon. A. K. Maclean, Minister of Reconstruction; Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the

Interior; Hon. Frank Cochrane; Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries; Hon. P. E. Blondin, Postmaster General; Hon. Gideon Robertson, Chairman of the War Labour Board.

Careful arrangements had been made by the leaders of the delegation to limit their spokesmen both as to number and as to the time they should severally occupy. The reading of the memorial was the main feature of the occasion. The addresses following were earnest, brief, and pointed. Though the whole interview lasted from four o'clock until after seven, not a moment was wasted. The members of the Government present nearly all took some part in the discussion, Sir George Foster and Messrs. Maclean, Meighen and Crothers being prominent in this respect.

A gratifying feature of the occasion was the presence of a delegation of women representing the Women's Section of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa. The spokesman on their behalf, Miss Tremblay, though speaking in English, which a delightful French accent showed to be not her mother tongue, made quite the speech of the occasion, and evidently created a most favourable impression; for Sir George Foster, in his answer on behalf of the Government, asked that any subsequent delegations should include the ladies and especially the one who had spoken.

The first speaker was President Frank Grierson, of the Civil Service Federation of Canada. It was his duty to explain the general position and to introduce the delegation. He said:—

Sir George and Honourable Gentlemen,—

If there should be any lack of facility of words or any lack of felicity of expression in the remarks

I am about to make, I beg you will attribute it to my deficiencies and not allow it to prejudice the case I am about to bring to your attention.

Before proceeding, permit me on behalf of all the associations of the Canadian Service to offer at once our hearty thanks and congratulations that the merit Civil Service Act of 1918 was passed at the last session of Parliament. In our opinion, a Canadian statesman can achieve no greater glory than to be a member of a Government that enacted the legislation which has abolished Patronage from the political life of this Dominion.

We have come before you to-day with one principal object in view, but before referring to it, I crave your indulgence that I may bring to your attention a matter which we have taken a sacred vow to mention upon every occasion that we have the privilege of coming before you. I refer to our request for the appointment of a Minister of Personnel or Civil Service Minister.

Sir George Foster.—“Do you want a brand new one?”

Mr. Grierson.—No, Sir, we have the names of two ministers in mind. We have mentioned this subject on every possible occasion during the past five years and we propose to continue mentioning it until we attain our object. On past occasions we have been met by two objections. The first is that the Government has deputed to the Civil Service Commission the duty of administering the personnel of the Service. If this statement were infallibly true, we would point out that the Commission is so congested with the work involved in the great task suddenly thrust upon it that it is, humanly speaking, impossible for the

Continued on page 327