

# THE CIVILIAN

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## Signs of the Times re Superannuation.

### GREAT BRITAIN. — BRITISH COLUMBIA. — QUEBEC.

Three recent and very near-at-home developments might well move the Dominion government to serious thought on the superannuation question:

(1) The British government has just passed a new and considerably amplified superannuation act with a view to providing still more effectively for the retiring of its employees. Of it the British Civilian says: "When the details of the Bill and the Regulations are fully known we anticipate that very few civil servants will elect to remain outside the scope of the measure; indeed, so sure are we of its beneficence and general excellence, that we strongly urge its acceptance by everyone to whom it applies."

(2) The government of British Columbia after having passed a civil service reform act has appended thereto not only an act to reorganize the provincial service on the new basis, but an act providing very liberally for the superannuation of civil servants.

(3) The government of Quebec, which abolished its superannuation act in 1893, has now, after sixteen years' trial of an alternative policy, admitted its mistake and returned to superannuation.

It does not follow, of course, that the judgement of Great Britain, or of Quebec, or of British Columbia, is infallible on this subject. Still it is a coincidence that three of the governments with which we are in the closest daily association should be moving on parallel lines in a matter that lies admittedly in the path along which the Dominion government has directed its steps these two years past—the path of Civil Service Reform.

*The Civilian* purposes to discuss from time to time the above mentioned legislation for the sake of the light thrown on the situation in the Dominion service. Obviously the Quebec experience offers the closest analogy and the best material for an initial article, and the reader will find on another page a brief description of how Quebec tried to do without a superannuation system and found she couldn't.

Quebec drifted down the stream in this matter some sixteen years or more; she is now rowing back. The Dominion may drift as far or further; but in exact proportion as she drifts so will she, like Quebec, have to labour at the oars in the much more difficult effort of return.