

THE CIVILIAN

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THE BOARD OF EDITORS,

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Communications on any subject of interest to the Civil Service are invited and will receive careful consideration.

Ottawa, Jan. 15th, 1909

FELLOW WORKERS.

Britannia, mother of empire, is about to have an addition to her family. Prodigiously fruitful, she now has her progeny firmly established in every sea and in every zone. Many of these are the product of youthful affairs, some the result of romantic indiscretions. Constitutionally speaking, only two of this great mother's children can claim full legitimacy. Only two have slipped the anchoring apron string and gone forth to do for themselves, the Dominion of Canada and the Commonwealth of Australia.

The throes of childbirth are again upon our ancient and honourable mother, and the result will be, we hope, a full-fledged South African Federation. The interest of all true Canadians in this outcome will be

great and sincere, but there is a particular relevancy for Canadian civil servants in the formation of a third colonial federal civil service. Our fellow workers in South Africa must be made cognizant of our experiences and must have the benefit of our petitions and prayers in order that they may not for so long a time leave undone the things which we have left undone.

The principle of a commission, *absolutely independent*, to preside over appointments and promotions in the public service, is gaining ground every day in countries which enjoy the blessings of constitutional government. In the working out of the details of the proposed federation in South Africa, the civil service problem has already made itself apparent in a way to suggest mediaevalism rather than modernism in administration. While the service in Canada is, and will for a long time be, engaged in efforts to establish a new and more dignified status, we may spare this passing moment from our own affairs to cast a longing, lingering look over the intervening ocean, and breathe a sympathetic orison for those who will compose the civil service of the empire's new-born child.

SOME FUNDAMENTALS.

A question that will be with us while the world is ruled by governments is the status that shall attach to the civil servant. We mean, the question of the recognition of the essential difference in the nature of his employment from that of anyone else. The understanding of this is the solution of half the difficulties, the neglect of which has made civil service reform not the least noteworthy development of recent history. We do not propose to discuss this matter here and now, for it