

so the ground on which they may be met is the strongest of any. It comes, in few words, to be a question of simple right-dealing. The debt—for if the action of employers generally be a criterion it is a debt—which is owing to the civil service should be paid like any other debt. It has been accumulating in the sight of day for at least four years, and for six months past it has been openly written in the report of the commission as a liability against the country. If provision has not been made to meet it, whose fault is that? There can be no necessity for urging that the country be at least as just a task-master as her own private citizens, and that with her magnificent resources of the present and the future she should hold those that labour for her as worthy of their hire.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Further Representations of the C. S. Association.—Details of Important Amendments to the Bill.

In order that readers of THE CIVILIAN may be acquainted with all the steps taken by the Association in the direction of securing amendments to the Civil Service Bill and of securing a general increase of salaries, it is considered advisable to continue the article, published in the last issue, dealing with these matters.

As previously intimated, a letter was addressed to the Prime Minister, under date of June 30th, asking a favorable consideration of the salary question as based upon the increased cost of living. Omitting the introductory and concluding paragraphs, the letter reads as follows:

“It is now somewhat over a year since the Royal Commission was appointed by the Government, for the

purpose in the first instance of providing a remedy for the distressing conditions that had arisen through the general and prolonged rise in prices. The Commission, we may affirm, found the conditions in question not less painful in themselves and not less inimical to good work within the service than the representations of the Association had pointed out. In addition to general statements in their report as to the evil nature of the situation, they expressly recommended that an increase of 15 per cent. be granted at once — on this special ground of the abnormally increased cost of living—to clerks receiving less than \$1,500 per annum, and an increase of 12½ per cent. to clerks receiving over that amount, provided that on rigid examination they were found deserving. In other words, the Commission recommended an immediate adjustment of salaries to meet the changed economic conditions in the case of all civil servants whose efficiency had been maintained. It was in view of this and of the unequivocal nature of the evidence adduced by the Commission in support of its findings, that we ventured in our previous memorandum to ask that in proceeding to the consideration of the various matters of the Commissioners' report, you would give your earliest attention to the question of salaries, in the two-fold way of securing a better apportionment of remuneration to the nature of the duties performed in certain cases, and of making allowance for the greatly enhanced expenses of living for all.

“It is our desire to-day only to repeat and to emphasize this request in the light of subsequent occurrences. In the view that it may be necessary to deal with the cost of living question in a separate measure we entirely concur. We most earnestly hope, however, that the separation in method of treatment thereby involved may not lead to the opinion that the readjustment of civil service salaries to pre-