

Favorably Received.

While, as is usual on such occasions, the Ministers declined to give any promise of action, it was apparent that Sir Thomas White was much impressed by the arguments and facts set forth in the memorial. He expressed his sympathy, particularly with the lower-paid men, whose situation, he said, was very hard just now. The officers felt assured, by his words, that he would go into the matter thoroughly and deal with the claim upon its merits.

Third Division.

Incidentally (and rather unexpectedly) the Third Division question came up during the interview. The former memorial of the Association in that regard and Commissioner LaRochelle's memorandum were discussed. The delegation impressed upon the Ministers that the rescinding of the objectionable regulation would not involve one promotion or one cent of expenditure. Those matters would still be entirely in control of the different department heads. All that is asked is the restoration of the rights that several hundred civil servants were deprived of when the new regulations were adopted.

In this matter, also, Sir Thomas White showed a desire for full and accurate information. He mentioned certain administrative difficulties that would be encountered in a peremptory alteration of the regulation, but seemed to admit the justice of the petition and to be willing to assist in having it granted by the Government.

Very Hopeful.

On the whole, the members of the delegation felt decidedly encouraged as a result of the interview in regard to both the salary and Third Division matters. Undoubtedly substantial advancement was made with both.

After careful inquiries made in different quarters, *The Civilian* anticipates that the Government will take up the salary matter at an early date and that during the session of Parliament which opens this month some measure of relief will be granted to at least the lower-paid classes of the Inside Service.

In the Third Division question success may not be so near, but the line of action to be followed is more clearly outlined now than ever before. The difficulties to be overcome are to a large extent technical and the Association must devote its energies to the removal of these obstacles from the path of justice.

TORONTO CUSTOMS NOTES.

Mr. W. Dunlop, one of the outside appraisers, had the misfortune the other day to get his foot badly bruised by a large case falling on it. It will lay him up for a couple of weeks.

The mother of Mr. E. W. Miller, Dominion appraiser, died at Whitechurch a few days ago, in her 88th year. She was one of the early settlers of Bruce county, and was the

last surviving member of a long-lived family of six sisters and one brother, whose average age exceeded eighty-three years. Two of her sons are clergymen in Vancouver, and two of her daughters are ministers' wives.

The many friends of Mr. W. Gann will regret to learn of the serious illness of his wife, who has been in the hospital for a couple of weeks, with seemingly very little hope of recovery.