

THE CIVILIAN

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THE EDITORS,

THE CIVILIAN,

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

Ottawa, Sept. 6, 1912

MARKING TIME IS OVER.

The Civil Service organizations (and the *Civilian*, their servant) have gone through a period of less active propaganda during the past year than in any other time of like duration since they came into existence. This has been the natural result of the change in government. So much of confusion and uncertainty is inherent in the taking over of power by a new administration and a new party, especially when so many policies of the first magnitude are under reconstruction, that civil service affairs inevitably are given a back seat. We must bow to this, however much we feel that at the present stage continuous attention is demanded in the public interest to the public service. With government now fairly in the saddle and its main plans taking form, we should see an early recrudescence of

interest in the condition of service. The Federation will probably seize the occasion to hold its annual convention in Ottawa this Autumn. The annual meeting of the Ottawa association should also see the local programme brought once more to the front, this time we hope to be carried to a successful issue.

HANDS OFF THE CIVIL SERVICE

**Taft, Wilson, and Roosevelt Would
Not Limit Terms.**

The National Civil Service Reform League recently sent to the three Presidential candidates letters asking for their views on the proposal to provide a seven-year term of office for all Federal employees in the executive department in the District of Columbia. The replies indicated that all three, Wilson, Taft, and Roosevelt, were opposed to the idea.

President Taft, in failing to approve the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial bill, which contained a rider calling for the seven-year tenure of office, strongly denounced the plan "because it impairs that feature of the civil service which I regard as a most valuable one, to wit, the permanence of tenure on the one hand, balanced by a wide and almost absolute power of removal in the department head on the other."

Col. Roosevelt's attitude was judged by the plank in the Progressive platform calling for "continuous service during good behavior and efficiency." Gov. Wilson wrote:

"I would say that I agree with your judgment that the proposal to fix a brief tenure of office for the civil servants of the government is a distinct step backward and that it would inevitably demoralize the service. I am a hearty believer in the principles of civil-service reform and shall take pleasure at all times in doing what I can to promote those principles in practice."