

sess the incomes of the officers of the Commonwealth, and the salary scale, therefore, it is to be presumed, was drawn up with this contingency in view.

The present situation will do good in any issue if it serves to emphasize in the minds of civil servants the need for a perfect appreciation of their place in the community. We have spoken of this often and we intend to return to the theme from time to time as occasion warrants. When the municipal elections arrive, for example, it would seem high time for the service to ask itself if its representation in the city council is on a proper basis. But as this is a large and many-sided question, it would better bear discussion as a separate issue.

CIVIL SERVANTS AND CIVIC POLITICS.

An invitation to civil servants to prepare for an active participation in the next civic elections in Ottawa comes from the city hall in the form of an announcement to the effect that government employees are expected to make an additional contribution to the revenue of 1909 to the extent of \$25,000.

THE CIVILIAN believes that this invitation should be accepted.

As pointed out in a previous issue, the lesson of the past year for the service has been that of self-dependence. The service is acquiring the habit of looking after its own interests. It is feared, however, that the public has not awakened to a realization of this change. The service had a lesson to learn; it still has one to teach. Hitherto the public has appraised the service at the value which the latter has set upon itself. The time has arrived for demanding a new standard of valuation.

Here is a practical method of demonstrating the influence of the ser-

vice in the community. If, at the close of the polls on next election day, civil servants are found to have united in support of the candidates best fitted to serve the city's interests, a lesson—far-reaching and permanent in its results—will have been taught.

Numerically the voting-strength of the service is great. The new lists will contain the names of approximately 2,000 civil servants. Of this number many are already heavily taxed by reason of their being householders, and, if the efforts of the city to enforce payment of the income tax are successful, fully 40% of the revenue derivable from this source will be contributed by civil servants.

This, in itself, is a sufficient reason for taking a practical step in the direction of ensuring an efficient administration of civic affairs. Civil servants have an indisputable right to demand that their contributions to the exchequer shall be prudently expended. They have but one way to enforce that demand.

While the civil servant owes it to himself to take an active interest in these matters he owes it to the community as well, and in this instance he has the opportunity of setting a much-needed example. The oft-repeated lament that our best citizens do not aspire to seats at the council board finds its true source in the lethargy and indifference of the great mass of ratepayers. An active and intelligent demonstration of a sense of the responsibilities of citizenship on the part of civil servants will have a most beneficial result in demonstrating the means whereby an efficient civic administration can at all times be secured.

An opportunity, we are inclined to believe, is afforded in this connection for effective work on the part of the Association. A sub-committee of the Executive should be appointed charged with the duty of acquiring information as to the men and measures that are at issue and of preparing a statement of the methods best calculated to pro-