

THE CIVILIAN

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

Ottawa, Dec. 3rd, 1909

THE INTERVIEW AND THE MEMORIALS.

The double interview which was granted by the Prime Minister to the service on Dec. 4, coupled with the presentation of the two memorials, forms the most important incident in recent civil service history. Full reports relating to both appear elsewhere. Mention here need only be made to the cordial reception which was given the deputations, and especially to the warmth of the compliment paid to the civil service organizations by Mr. Fisher.

The Federation memorial contains little that is new, being no more than a forceful statement of the views adopted at the last convention.

The memorial of the Ottawa Association, which has just been distributed, is, perhaps, the most considerable of any that has been presented since the famous one addressed to the Royal Commission in 1907.

Here, again, there is only one part that is new,—the part relating to sanitation. The plea for superannuation is substantially the same as that of a previous memorial, while the reorganization part is only a virtual repetition of the request which was made at the time of the negotiations for the cost of living increase, and which was published in the press at that time, and universally approved. Every request that it contains is "eminently reasonable," to quote Mr. Fisher's words, and the service may safely leave the result on the knees of the future.

SUPERANNUATION.

Says the New York American, commenting on President Taft's recent message:

"The fact that the national civil service is clogged and cumbered in all its parts by the retention of old servants whose usefulness is ended is a fact that speaks well for the heart of the country, but pays no compliment to its head.

"Mr. Taft has pointed out in his message to Congress—and he ought to be listened to—that the thing to do with these veterans is not, indeed, to turn them helpless into the street, but to give them decent pensions and let them go and sit on the sunny side of the wall—out of the way.

"He remarks that some of the more enlightened industrial concerns of the country have learned how to provide for their superannuated employes.

"Certainly the servants of the government should fare as well."

In one of the vaudeville theatres two "side-walk conversationalists" engage in this bit of repartee. "How much do you earn my good man?" inquires one of them. "I get \$8 a week is the answer. "Only \$8!" says the first in surprise. "Can a man lead a good Christian life on \$8 a week?" "Huh," replies the other, "he can't live anything else."