

An Interesting Question.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Dears Sirs,—Can you give any reason *why* an extra one per centum is added towards the superannuation fund when a civil servant takes out insurance with the Insurance Department? It is impossible for me to see any connection between civil service insurance and the superannuation fund. Even supposing the rates of the insurance are not adequate, which is a mere supposition, why should the extra per centum be added to superannuation?

Your writings are an authority to the Outside service, and I would be obliged for any information you may be able to give on this question. I have tried to get it into my head, but my cranium must be thick, for it does not make an impression. Thanking you,

Fraternally,

W. W. MACVICAR,
Railway Mail Service.

Sarnia, Aug. 8th, 1913.

It is not an easy matter to get an official declaration in reply to Mr. MacVicar's question. General impressions have been formed on the subject somewhat to the following effect:—The deductions made on account of the first superannuation act, viz., 2% and 1¼%, were considered too low for the benefits conferred, and on April 1, 1893, an amendment was made to the act making the deduction 3½% and 3%. As an indemnification to those compelled to pay the larger rates, the government instituted its civil service insurance policy, which became law on April 1, 1893, the same day the increased superannuation rates took effect. It is supposed that the government considered that those paying the lesser fees not to be eligible for this privilege on equal terms with those paying the greater fees, and imposed the super-tax of 1%.. This extra charge has apparently not been justified or even discussed by any government since 1893, and its withdrawal has been requested by the federation. The extra 1% is credited to the Insurance Fund, not to Superannuation.—[EDS.]

ALONG THE LINE.

A New Customs Association.

To the Editors of *The Civilian*:

Gentlemen,—I beg to advise you that a Civil Service Association has recently been organized at the Port of Edmonton to be known as the Northern Alberta Customs Association.

A final organization meeting was held on the 24th of July at which a Constitution was adopted and officers for the current year were elected. I enclose you a copy of our Constitution as adopted and following is a list of the officers for the current year:

Hon. President, J. W. Shera.
Hon. Vice-President, A. B. Sowter.

President, John Rea.
Vice-President, Wm. Parish.
Sec.-Treasurer, F. Lumsden.

Executive Com., A. A. Johnston, J. Carmichael, J. W. Duke, A. H. Elliott, N. J. Sparge, G. W. Elliott.

At our last meeting a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. A. B. Sowter for his work in the organization of this Association.

I enclose cheque for \$5.00 for five yearly subscriptions to your paper in order that we may have a few copies to circulate among the members of this Association, many of whom are not as yet acquainted with this publication. These may be addressed to the Association and will be distributed. Your truly. — F. LUMSDEN, secretary-treasurer.

Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 16th, 1913.