

now, it will have to be done for them by the Commissioners a little later. A power of recommendation is, under the circumstances, as good an instrumentality as could be desired for effecting real reforms; and the will to make those recommendations is not likely to be wanting.

We profess to a feeling that is, upon the whole, by no means hopeless. One solid gain we have in permanency: the Commissioners are actually in office, and, depend upon it, they know what is expected of them by the country.

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### EN PASSANT.

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While the general question of the re-organization is, as above noted, in the background for the present, *THE CIVILIAN* notes, with a great degree of satisfaction, the fact that a large number of extra clerks in the Departments of Interior, Public Works and Agriculture, have been placed on the permanent list at increases in salaries ranging from \$50 to \$750. That the injection of such a considerable number of persons into the old establishment should produce anomalies, is not strange, and we are informed that, as a matter of fact, some indignation is felt among those who have been supplanted in point of remuneration by the newly-classified. This renders all the more necessary a thorough reorganization of the inside service, and indeed probably constitutes the initial act in the process of re-organization.

As we have repeatedly pointed out, it would be idle to assume that there can be any general increase in connection with the application of the new Act. In point of fact, many extra clerks in the Departments above indicated have been transferred without any increase whatever, and it is assumed that those to whom increases were given, received them as a recognition of the importance of the

duties they are called upon to perform. We believe that it will be absolutely feasible for the deserving permanent officials of the service to be treated in the same way. To illustrate: If a deputy minister decides that it is in the interest of his department to have a greater number of the higher grade clerkships than will be filled by reason of the automatic transfer under Section 6, and the bringing in of his temporary staff, it will be quite competent for him to make provision to that end in the memorandum defining the organization and then to promote, from the ranks of those affected by the automatic transfer, a sufficient number of clerks to fill the positions unprovided for, even if the individual amounts involved should range from \$50 to \$750. Surely the treatment of permanent officials is to be uniform with that of the extra clerks.

The general increase, which must be arranged upon a percentage basis, is quite another matter, and since it is being dealt with by the politicians we prefer to reserve further comment for a future issue.

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### MUNICIPAL POLITICS.

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was asked for an extension of the time for allowing discounts on taxes, the only reply received was made by an official who voiced the refusal of the council in terms deprecating and minimizing the importance of civil servants in the community. Let him remember, too, that at the time the attention of the council was called to the agreement between the city and the government, exempting the salaries of government employees from taxation, not a solitary member of the board of control or of the council was man enough to rise in his place and declare that the city should live up to the terms of its agreement.