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## ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERATION.

The minister of finance, in his recent meeting with the representatives of the federation, desired to be furnished with a brief statement of the views of the various portions of the service at present under the Civil Service Act. The secretary of the federation furnished this memoranda on March 21st. The case for the post office was made out in the identical terms as published a fortnight ago. The inland revenue case, with a few minor changes, and the insertion of a plea for the merit system, was the same as printed in the minutes of the December convention, and reported in *The Civilian* of December 12th.

The memorandum from the outside customs service embodies a number of variations from the December memorial, and is here given in full:—

(1) That the following amended classification of the outside customs service be taken under consideration, in the endeavor to bring this service more in harmony with the classification of the inside service, and to meet the increased cost of living:—

Collectors .....	\$ 500 to	4,500
Surveyors .....	1,600 to	3,200
Senior chief clerks .....	2,400 to	3,200
Chief clerks .....	2,100 to	2,800
Senior clerks .....	1,600 to	2,100
Clerks .....	1,000 to	1,600
Appraisers .....	1,400 to	2,800
Assistant appraisers and gaugers .....	1,200 to	2,100
Tides surveys, asst. sur... ..	1,200 to	2,100
Ch. lookers & ch. ldg. wrs.	1,200 to	1,800
Landing waiters .....	800 to	1,400
Examining officers .....	800 to	1,200
Messengers, packers, sor- ters .....	600 to	1,000

(2) That the annual increase be made statutory, and that it be at least 10% of the salary, with a maximum of \$100 for all classes, and only withheld on the detrimental report of the commissioner of customs.

(3) That the compensation for overtime be increased from 30c. to 40c. per hour.

(4) That a living allowance of 15% be granted to all officers west of the great lakes, to offset the increased cost of living.

(5) That the government take under consideration the advisability of adopting the advantages of the merit system in appointments and promotions in the customs outside service, and that the government recognize the principle that, in case of vacancies in all positions subordinate to those of collectorships (excepting those of technical officer), such positions shall be filled by the promotion of men in the service who may be duly qualified.

In consequence of representations made by the secretaries of postal clerks' associations, the secretary of the federation forwarded to the postmaster-general a "supplementary memorial" in the form of a letter embodying the following three items of some interest and importance:—

(1) A request that the term "porter" in city post offices be changed to "despatcher."

(2) A request from the office in Halifax that post offices of such a size be allowed one 1st class grade A clerkship.

(3) A request from the west that the \$120.00 provisional allowance to the western clerks be made staple and unchangeable, and not reduced to a percentage basis, the desirability for this change being very strongly expressed by your officers.

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The views of the inside service, involving many complicated problems, is embodied in the following communication, and, in addition, the latest memorial of the third division, brought to a conclusion the memoranda forwarded to the minister by the secretary of the federation:—