

Memorial.

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*To the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.G., Prime Minister of Canada.*

Sir,—

It is now a year since you accorded to the Civil Service Federation of Canada the privilege of its first interview with you as Head of the Government. We desire to thank you in the first instance for the measure of relief afforded in the interval to certain members of the Customs, Inland Revenue, Canal, and other services. Existing conditions, however, in other respects remain such that we feel impelled to again approach the Government with a statement from the point of view of the most comprehensive organization in the service. We might add that the subjoined represents the views of 38 organizations of civil servants between Halifax and Victoria, B.C., aggregating about 5,000 in membership.

At the outset of our statement we desire to say that it amounts in the main to a plea for equal treatment throughout the service of the various branches and classes serving the Government.

### **Merit System of Appointment.**

We beg leave to request the consideration of the Government to the extension of the merit system of appointments and promotions over the entire service. While we make no representations as to a matter which still remains one of government policy, we desire to say that civil servants themselves are not unwilling to go on record as in favour of the principles of civil service reform.

### **Salaries and Classification.**

As on previous occasions we desire to place the claims of certain branches of the service for increased remuneration under two headings: (1) the increased cost of living, and (2) the need for an improved classification scheme. Throughout the entire service we believe much good would accrue through a thorough reorganization such as that contemplated by the Act of 1908.

On the subject of cost of living, it would appear unnecessary to adduce further evidence at this date. The report of the Department of Labour shows that prices were at least 37% higher last year than in 1897. Special pleas on this behalf, however, have been addressed by certain of our constituent bodies to their respective Departments. For example, the Canal employees have addressed a memorial to the Honourable the Minister of Railways and Canals; employees of the Marine Department have addressed the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; the Penitentiary employees both of B. C. and the East have similarly addressed the Honourable the Minister of Justice; the Civil Service employees in Europe have presented a statement to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, while those of all classes in B. C. have similarly addressed yourself. The special plea of the Railway Mail Clerks was recently handed to yourself and the Honourable the Postmaster General. To all of these we give endorsement and would request favourable consideration on the part of the government

In more particular reference to changes in the classification