

various aspects of the question at as early a date as possible, when a special meeting of the members will be called.

Messrs. Hewitt, Edgar and Blakney were appointed to the board of directors for the ensuing year.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors Mr. Alexander of the Naval Department was appointed President of the Association, and Mr. Edgar of the Labour Department, Secretary, for the year 1913-14.

The committee which will report on the membership problem consists of Messrs. Alexander, Coats, Hewitt, Owen, Pare, Greene and Spencer.

PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS.

The Customs and Excise services of the United Kingdom have been amalgamated. It is over thirty years since this proposition was first given serious consideration. The idea, while excellent in theory, has not turned out well, in practice as regards the welfare of the two staffs concerned. Indeed an agitation is afoot to have the merger annulled. The difficulty seems to lie in the fact that the members of the two services were not taken into confidence throughout the negotiations of amalgamation.

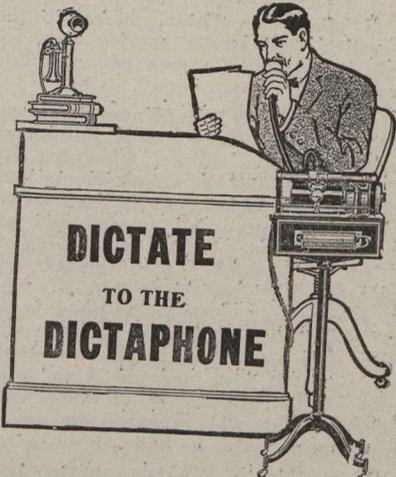
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President Wilson may be the chief speaker at the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissions to be held here June 12, 13 and 14. The president, it is well known, is a warm advocate of the merit system, and his presence here on that occasion would greatly strengthen the purpose of the conference. Frank Gallagher, president of the Municipal Commission, is enthusiastic over the plan to have the Nation's chief magistrate here to make known his views on civil service. — The Chief, New York.

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Hon. Wm. Loeb, Jr., in retiring from the collectorship of the port of New York, testifies regarding civil service life as follows:—

“Civil service reform has ceased to be a mere theory. It has become a well-settled practice, and its efficiency is apparent. It should be supplemented by a civil pension which can be worked out so that there is no increase in cost, but a decrease in the number of employees, which is now much too large and which can be brought



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about by the retirement of the superannuated and substituting 100 per cent. of inefficiency with 100 per cent. of efficiency.

“I believe we are approaching the time when men administering the purely business positions of the Government, like the collectorships, postmasters, district attorneys, etc., will, by law, have a life tenure during good behavior. A more absurd system cannot be imagined than the one of changing these men every time an administration changes politics.

“Politics should have no more effect in the selection of the men collecting the revenue of the Government than the color of their hair; and from what I have seen of the hungry hordes filling the ante rooms of the departments at Washington, I believe the cabinet officers are praying for the day to come soon when their subordinates will be left alone as long as they properly perform the tasks assigned to them.”—Good Government.

EVIDENCE BEFORE THE C. S. ROYAL COMMISSION OF UNITED KINGDOM.

The Patronage Question.

Mr. N. Waterfield, Secretary to the Oxford University Appointments Committee, said he could not imagine a business firm