

"That the Civil Service is overmanned by 20 per cent. and that there are at least 1,200 single men in that service of military age, who should enlist but who are averse to it, is the contention of the Public Service Committee of the National Service Board. This committee, for some weeks, has been making investigations and find that there are at least 1,200 single men who could be spared from the Civil Service for military service. In addition to this number, it is said there are some 400 married men, who have a wife only to support, and who could be spared. "The committee is continuing its activities and information has leaked out that "it is the intention to take drastic measures to 'rid' the Service of men who could "be better employed in military service than in the Civil Service at present."

The Journal went on to discuss regulations of leave, pay, etc., affecting civil servants who enlist for military service.

The next day following the publication of the above, the same newspaper contained the following:

" 'There is no question that there are a lot of men who could enlist if they were 'physically fit,' said Mr. Todd, President of the Civil Service Association, in discussing the announcement made yesterday that 1,200 civil servants were eligible for overseas duty.

" 'According to figures compiled a short time ago it was learned that over 700 civil servants had enlisted.

" 'A large number have applied for leave to go overseas. They have been refused by heads of the departments. I presume there are 1,200 men of military age in the employ of the Government here, but how many of them are medically fit?'"

The Public Service Committee of the National Service Board, which has this census in hand, is composed of Lieut.-Col. W. P. Anderson, C.M.G., C.E., chief engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals, a civil servant of forty years' standing and a distinguished officer of the Reserve Militia, who is chairman; Major Graham A. Bell, financial controller of the Department of Railways and Canals, lately of the 207th Battalion, C.E.F., and Archelais Boldue, superintendent of the Rural Mail Delivery Branch of the Post Office Department.

### WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

"What next" is the attitude of the Service since this census was announced. There are some who see in it the first step towards early conscription of all the unmarried and physically fit in the Service, while others scout the idea of such a thing. The committee has not announced its further intentions. Perhaps they will not be definitely decided upon until the great mass of information just collected has been analyzed.

*The Civilian* has no further official information. It is safe to remark, however, that the situation is the result of the regrettable falling off in recruiting in the Service in Ottawa during the past few months and to the growing conviction in many quarters that the remaining fit and free men in the Service are deliberate and incorrigible slackers.

*If conscription should follow, what would it mean to the Service?*

The drafting for military duty of several hundred men and the temporary interference with and necessary reorganization of staffs and work that would follow would be the least serious effect. That difficulty would right itself, but there would be other effects that would never be got rid of.

*It would go down in the history of Canada that the men of the Civil Service in Ottawa would not fight until they were compelled to.*

The glowing record of our seven hundred and seventy gallant fellows now in khaki, the memory of the scores who sprang to arms at the first note of the tocsin of war without pausing to inquire regarding continuance of positions or