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Merit System for Outside Service

Government Declares for Administration by Commission and Abolition of Patronage.

Prediction that the re-organization of the Civil Service Commission would prove to be of great importance to the Civil Service is already coming true,—but it is the Outside rather than the Inside Service that seems likely to be immediately and materially benefitted.

The Commission (of which Hon. W. J. Roche has been made chairman) has been asked by the Premier to make a report upon means and methods of extending the application of the Civil Service Act to the Outside Service and the three Commissioners are hard at work upon the details of the recommendation which they will make.

The Government Announcement.

In the manifesto given out by Sir Robert Borden on October 18th, Civil Service reform is the second in order of the declared purposes of the new Government—giving precedence only to that regarding the prosecution of the war. The section reads as follows:

“Civil Service reform, with a view to extending the principle of the present Civil Service Act to the Outside Service, and thus to abolish patronage and to make appointments to the Public Service upon the sole standard of merit. The Civil Service Commission has already been directed to make a report to the Prime Minister as to the necessary steps for that purpose. Such arrangements will be subject to the existing regulations which give preference in appointments to returned soldiers who are duly qualifiefd.”

The phraseology of this declaration leads to the hope that it is the intention of the Government to take action at an early date, without reference to Parliament, and, perhaps, before the elections.

What the Act Says.

Power to take such action is given by the Civil Service Amendment Act of 1908, Section 4, Sub-section 3, which says:

“The Governor in Council may, by order in council to be published in the *Canada Gazette*, bring the whole or any part of the Outside Service under the same provisions of the law as the Inside Service.”

Experienced Commissioners.

The Civil Service Commission, as now constituted, is peculiarly qualified to handle such a tremendous problem as that of bringing the Outside Service under the Act. Chairman Roche has, until lately, been the administrator of one of the largest Departments of the Government, and the one having the