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The New Future.

The Prime Minister's announcement to the Service.— The Effect on the Salary Question.— The Re- organization. — Superannuation.

This journal knows absolutely nothing about politics. We believe it, however, to be incontrovertible that a general election was held in Canada last week, and that the result was to sustain the previous administration by a large majority. Under ordinary circumstances, the civil servant would have no special or class interest in such an event. But the present circumstances are not ordinary, and the conduct and result of the elections are of very decided significance from the civil service standpoint. The points of chief significance are two in number. In the first place, the Cabinet with which the service has been in more or less constant communication since the present eventful phase in our history was entered upon has been continued, and there is, accordingly, no recasting of the general or fundamental position to be made. Secondly, we have the specific announcement of the Prime Minister, made in the course of the campaign, with reference to his personal position on certain matters of first importance—an announcement which may truly be said to have caused a new light to shine for the civil service.

The Prime Minister's Announcement.

The attitude of the Prime Minister in brief, as he announced it, amounts to this. He is personally convinced, and will urge that conviction

upon the cabinet, that the civil service is entitled to an immediate increase in general salaries on the score of the advanced cost of living. As to the extent of that increase he is willing to abide by the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Before these recommendations are put in force, however, he is of the opinion that the reorganization required under clause 8 of the new Act should be carried into effect. The reorganization presumably will involve an advance in salaries to a greater or less number, and it is to the residue that the more general provision will apply. The process is certainly logical. Finally, all increases, under whatever heading they fall, will be dated back to the coming into effect of the new Act. From September 1st every deserving employee of the inside civil service may confidently expect, if the views of the Prime Minister can avail it, a substantial improvement in his living wage.

The Salary Question Again.

The first and obvious comment on the foregoing is that it re-opens on a most satisfactory basis the whole question of the readjustment of salaries in the civil service. As we have many times pointed out, the need for such readjustment has its origin in two distinct quarters. With the enormous expansion of the service in the past ten years, offices and func-