

## The Superannuation Question in the United States.

### THE MOVEMENT FOR SUPERANNUATION AMONG U. S. CIVIL SERVANTS.—MR. TAFT'S VIEWS.—PENDING LEGISLATION.

They have, among civil servants in the United States, a special organization with the one object in life of securing an equitable retiring arrangement for employees of the Federal government. Needless to say, under the conditions which prevailed until recent years at Washington, a proper superannuation fund has been conspicuous by its absence. The organization referred to is known as the United States Civil Service Retirement Association, and it held its tenth annual convention at Washington during the past month. Its membership approximates 13,000, of which about 3,800 are in Washington and 2,800 in Chicago. The membership this Association is aiming to achieve is 100,000. The cities represented in the convention included New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, New Haven and Norfolk, as well as Chicago and Washington.

#### Proceedings of the Convention.

The proceedings of the convention were of unusual importance owing to the fact that the efforts of the association for the last ten years to have the government allow retirement annuities are at a critical point, with two bills offered, one in the upper and one in the lower house, and every probability that the next regular session of the lawmakers will end with a definite statute enacted.

It will be interesting, as a sidelight on the internal affairs of the Association, which has apparently the same problem to solve as our own Federation in the adjustment of incipient

jealousies between the "inside" and the "outside," to read the following from the report of the contingent representing Chicago at the convention:

"There prevailed a consensus of opinion that the bills so far presented are not desirable and ought not be advocated. The officers at Washington distinctly showed that they were not in favor of obtaining legislation exclusively for the department at Washington, as the latest Gillett bill provides, but that the Civil Service Reform Committee of Congress were willing to include only the employes of the District of Columbia on the principle of 'trying it on the dog first.' In fact, they knew not how deep are the waters they had to cross in trying to provide for the entire country, and therefore wish to provide for the immediate surroundings first.

"After a thorough discussion it was decided to revise the Constitution and By-laws of our national body, and a motion was made and carried to appoint a committee of five, only one of said committee to be from the District of Columbia. To our mind this action will pave the way for a truly national organization.

"The committee to act on this matter will be our new president, M. F. O'Donoghue, Departmental service at Washington; A. E. Schultz, post office clerk, New York City; J. P. Hutchinson, letter carrier; Joseph F. Scanlan, customs clerk, Boston; and last but not least, C. L. Shaffer of the railway mail service, Chicago, Ill. They will undoubtedly perfect a