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## Some Work in Hand.

### A Few Items for Early Consideration by the Civil Service Association.

*"We look before and after,  
And pine for what is not."*

Time flies, and often leaves us little chance for breathing. The half-year of the present Civil Service Association executive is already waning; in a few days they will have rounded the turn and be headed for the place of accounting. At the moment, with this the premier organization of the service, it so happens that no work of immediate pressure is in hand. The Athletic Association, too, is off with the old and on with the new this very week; and the Loan Association will probably count a new life from the present time forward. The year itself is at the spring, and the sound of housecleaning is universally heard in the land. We may seize the time, therefore, for a word of forecast and review, with the idea of disentangling a few of the several threads of so varied a programme, and of laying down an undeviating and consistent path to the common goal of all, the betterment of conditions in the civil service.

Let us speak entirely of the C. S. Association in this article; the others are sufficiently dealt with, for the time at least, under separate headings.

The work which the association has in the immediate future to carry

out may be divided roughly into two classes: (1) work which will necessitate the securing of governmental action; and (2) work which falls entirely within the power of the association of itself to execute.

#### The Increase.

Under the first heading it may be as well to say by way of preface, that the matter of the increase is now for good and all disposed of, so far as the association is concerned. No serious opposition to the proposal of the government, which is now in all its details before the public, is to be anticipated. The association has requested some further consideration of the case of the thirty-five who will get nothing. It has been told that for the present things must remain as they are. Conceivably some turn of the wheel may throw out some further cause for intervention. It is to be hoped not. The association has had to place the salary question first thus far on its programme; economic conditions have compelled that,—not the merely selfish wish of the service, though a man's pay under almost any circumstances will always be a subject of legitimate interest to him. We sincerely trust, however, that the settlement now obtained will be regarded as permanent for all prac-