

Executive Committee and by picked volunteer workers in every department. The canvass of the Service will be made on the same dates as is the city generally.

Bridging a Gap.

A rather unfortunate feature is that there is a "gap" between the subscriptions of last year and those for the coming twelve months. Last year's subscriptions were mostly for twelve months, the first deductions being made from the February, 1916, pay cheques. Consequently, the last deductions were made in January, 1917. The new subscriptions cannot be compiled in time to make deductions from the February cheques, so the Fund is likely to lose considerable Civil Service money this month. The reason of the delay in starting this year's campaign is that the organizers were engaged elsewhere and could not be secured for Ottawa sooner.

In the Department of Trade and Commerce the subscribers for last year have signed an order upon the Accountant, directing him to make deductions from their February cheques at the same rate as for the twelve months past. The same action is likely to be taken in other departments, and where such an arrangement is not made many will remit in cash to the Patriotic or Red Cross treasurers the amount of their usual contributions.

The Aim.

The amount to be aimed at in this year's collection in the Service is a matter of much discussion. The needs of the Patriotic Fund are so much greater than before that the contribution should be materially increased. In addition, there is the great need of the Red Cross. That Society will receive one-eighth of the amount raised during the campaign.

The cost of living has increased greatly since the last collection was made and many civil servants of the lower-paid grades feel that they are at the limit of their financial resources. In this connection it must be remembered that *the increase of the cost of living bears just as hard upon the soldier's wife and children.*

The appeal is strongest and most urgent to those who have no families dependant upon them or who are in receipt of incomes that enable them to enjoy their usual pre-war pleasures and luxuries. This class MUST increase its subscription to offset unavoidable losses in the less fortunate class and to provide the necessary increase to the joint funds.

The Patriotic Fund and Red Cross must be kept going and in a state of full efficiency *by civilians.* This is the only way in which the non-combatant can prove his appreciation and gratitude to the men who are fighting *for him.* All the other costs of the war are met by funds borrowed by municipal, provincial or federal governments. The debts thus created must be paid by the whole country and the returned soldiers and the widows and orphans of those who have fallen *will have to pay their share.* Not so with the Patriotic and Red Cross funds. As long as they are maintained by free gifts of the people at large they lay no mortgage on the future.

The Appeal.

The appeal of this campaign is to the head and the heart of every man, woman and child in Canada. It is a matter for each one to settle with his or her own conscience. The facts are unquestionable. The case is beyond argument. It is not a time for a day's hectic enthusiasm, but for thoughtful, serious, deliberate determination and self-sacrifice. There is but one watchword for all,—

GIVE ALL YOU CAN.