

True, the Inside service has been established on a business basis under the supervision of a non-partizan board. But the Outside service is on the old foundation—and it is insecure.

The government should lose no time in sweeping away the obsolete system of patronage as applied to civil servants."

Superannuation Embroglio in the United States.

Message from the President Transmitting a Report of the Commission on Economy and Efficiency on the Subject of Retirement. A Bad Case of Muddle.

The above is found on the title page of Document No. 732 of the 62nd Congress, second session. This document, containing over 600 pages, some of it finely printed, includes many statistical tables and the results of calculations relative to cost, etc. The President's message covers four pages; the portion to which the members of the efficiency commission have subscribed their names covers 54 pages; and the remainder of the document is taken up with reports made by Mr. H. D. Brown on the developments, etc., of superannuation schemes throughout the world especially with reference to Great Britain, New Zealand and New South Wales. Mr. Brown's reports entitled "Civil Service Retirement in Great Britain and in New Zealand" (Document 290, 61st Congress second session) and his "Savings and Annuity Plan proposed for the Retirement of Superannuated Civil Service Employees" (Document 745 61st Congress third session) were both reviewed in *The Civilian* of Sept. 8th, 1911. It was then pointed out that the chief value of these reports consisted in the gathering together in a concise and interesting form of the history of superannuation schemes in Great Britain and in New Zealand, while the "proposed scheme," that is the "savings and annuity" scheme was condemned from practically every point of view. In *The Civilian* of April 5, 1912, a letter from Mr. Wm.

Manly of London to Mr. Geo. T. Morgan, United States Mint, Phil., Pa., under date Nov. 28, 1911, was reprinted in which Mr. Manly states as follows:

"You ask me to make a statement of my views on pensions for employees in the civil service, and state that I have been quoted in favour of a compulsory savings-bank plan.

"I have had a very large practice in pension-funds finance, have been consulted by the British government, municipal corporations, many of the great railway companies and banks, as well as large commercial firms, and have written very largely on the subject; but I can not understand how any words of mine could be construed as being favourable to the savings bank principle. I consider it to be the worst scheme ever proposed as I shall presently show. . . ."

It may be stated that Mr. Manly is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, authority of any age on superannuation schemes. In view of this fact it is somewhat amusing to note the assurance with which the document now under review makes its appearance. The plan recommended by the Commission is in all essentials the plan recommended by Mr. Brown. The scheme is much the same as our Retirement Fund, only worse in-as-much as the deductions may be higher; in event of retirement between ages 60 and 70 the savings are returned in 10 equal in-