

## Parliamentary Representation for Civil Servants.

The Government may retain office until 1915, but it is quite on the cards that a general election will take place within the next few months. In this connection two questions arise:—

“Are the civil servants prepared with a candidate?” and

“Do they desire direct representation in the Mother of Parliaments?”

The first question must be answered in the negative, and the second in the affirmative. Various sectional associations connected with the service have considered the matter, and it is quite likely that at the next general election certain officers of these associations will become parliamentary candidates; but up to the present nothing, or practically nothing, has been done in the direction of securing a candidate who would represent civil servants of every class and of every grade. And yet civil servants want direct parliamentary representation, and they know that no large measure of civil service reform is possible until they have a representative in the House of Commons who can voice their wishes, and who can give his Majesty's Ministers and his Majesty's Opposition first-hand information as to the state of affairs now existing in the civil service.

In the present parliament every shade of opinion is represented, and the civil servants appear to be the only large body without a spokesman. There are, it is true, some thirty or so members who have been directly or indirectly connected with the civil service; but they have not been elected for the purpose of serving their old colleagues, and they have quite lost all interest in the civil service and the civil servants.

Sectional representation would serve a useful purpose, but it is not the kind of representation civil service reformers who desire direct parliamentary representation have in their minds. The primary object of a sectional representative would, naturally, be sectional interests. A sectional representative would fight for the betterment of his own people, and he would not endanger their interests by tackling other questions until all, or nearly all, their grievances had been redressed. A direct representative of the whole civil service would study the interests of every civil servant of the State. He would study the interests of the permanent secretary to the treasury, and he would study the interests of the most junior treasury messenger; he would study the interests of the secretary of the post office, and he would study the interests of the postman.

If direct parliamentary representation is to be secured, the civil servants must be prepared to “pay the piper,” and they must find a candidate, and when they have found a candidate they must go to the Liberal, Unionist, or Labour Party managers—in this they must be guided by the politics of their candidate—and ask them to find a seat for a man who would not be a charge against the party funds. Finally, they must put their shoulders to the wheel and send their man in with a swinging majority.—C. S. Gazette.

The order which the comely young German woman handed in at the P. O. Savings Bank was made payable to Gretchen H. Schmidt, and she signed it simply Gretchen Schmidt. The man at the counter called her back to rectify the mistake just as she was turning away.

“See, you have forgotten the H,” he explained.

The young woman looked at her receipt and blushed a rosy red.

“Ach, so I haf,” she murmured, and wrote hurriedly—

“Age, 23.”