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The Civil Service Federation of Canada

Official Report of First Annual Convention held at Ottawa, April 29 and 30, 1909.

By request of the Convention, the CIVILIAN has pleasure in publishing the following as an authorized report of the proceedings of the recent Convention at which a Federation of Civil Service Associations throughout Canada was organized. The report contains the full text of all resolutions introduced at the Convention, and is in part a reproduction of the minutes of the two-days session.

Introductory.

The idea of organizing the civil service of Canada into one central federated body is a comparatively new one. Since the idea was given birth, and even after it arrived at titular dignity and became arrayed in the swaddling clothes of a provisional constitution, there existed an uncertainty in the minds of its progenitors as to whether the result would justify the labour entailed. Many causes contributed to this uncertainty: the traditional slowness of large bodies, their geographical remoteness and the unorganized or only partially organized nature of many of the most populated districts of the Dominion. The meeting called by the Civil Service Association of Ottawa for the 29th and 30th of April was therefore looked forward to with some anxiety, though not without confidence. As the date for the meeting drew near, the responses from all over Canada poured in and several days before the 29th of April it became apparent that

the entire service would be represented. Had not the delegate from Winnipeg, representing the C. S. Association of Western Canada, fallen ill at the last moment, a unanimous representation would have resulted. The only organized body in Canada which did not respond in the most enthusiastic way to the call was the Dominion Postmasters' Association.

The Ottawa Association, as the convenors of the convention, had engaged the Board of Trade room in the Central Chambers, as the place of meeting. By 10.30 a.m. on Thursday morning some thirty-four delegates had registered their names, the record being as shown in the accompanying tabular statement, which sets forth in addition to the names of the representatives, the headquarters, officers and numerical strength of the several organizations deputing them. In connection with the estimates of membership given it may be pointed out that many of the associations are young, and that a