

which I hope will receive approval that a sufficient number be printed in both languages for every member of the House.

NOISE IN THE CHAMBER.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer): I should like to call your attention, Sir, to the circumstances under which we are met at the present moment, and which are very disconcerting. I have been endeavouring for a number of years to practice the apostolic maxim or to follow the apostolic example and say to myself: "In whatsoever state I am, therewith I shall be content." But there has been, during the half hour we have been in session to-day a periodic knocking which has made it absolutely impossible for us at this end of the Chamber to follow the proceedings in the House. The Minister of Militia (Mr. Guthrie) is a very fine speaker, and when the knocking was not going on I could hear everything he said; but the knocking immediately took away my ability to hear him, and what was much worse than that, Sir, I could not follow you in prayer. May I suggest that in the few hours that we meet in the afternoon, the knocking so near the Chamber should not proceed?

Mr. SPEAKER: I might inform the hon. member as well as the House that the Speaker has not been spared more or less knocking whether the House was in session or not, in consequence of the inconvenience to hon. members of occupancy of the new building. I appreciate, however, the difficulty at the moment, and I will endeavour, if possible to have the workmen cease working so near the Chamber during sitting hours as to inconvenience hon. members.

LETTER CARRIERS.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. JOHN A. CURRIE (Simcoe North): I should like to ask a question of the representative of the Postmaster General in the House. There is a good deal of unrest amongst the letter carriers, and there are threats of a strike in the city of Toronto. I understand that some arrangement has been reached between the letter carriers and the Government, and that some delay has occurred in putting that arrangement into effect. Is there any possibility of anything being done to avert that strike and trouble such as we had a few year ago.

Hon. Mr. ROWELL: I assume that what my hon. friend refers to is the question of the classification going into effect with refer-

ence to the letter carriers. The Bill passed last session re reclassification of the Civil Service was to go into effect on the 1st of April, 1920. It was contended that it should have gone into effect a year earlier, and when the Bill was before the House, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean), who was in charge of it, stated that the question would receive further consideration at the hands of the Government and, if necessary, an amendment would be brought down this session making the change. It is the intention of the Government to submit an amendment at this session providing that reclassification shall go into effect from the 1st of April, 1919. I think that is the point upon which there is some complaint; but until the amendment is passed, I presume no compensation can be paid on the basis of it.

Mr. CURRIE: When will this legislation be introduced?

Mr. ROWELL: There are under consideration, I believe, certain other amendments to the Civil Service Act, and the view was that it was much better to have one Bill covering all the points than to introduce separate Bills dealing with separate matters, but the Bill will be brought down at the earliest possible moment.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. D. D. MCKENZIE (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I should like to ask the Minister of Railways (Mr. J. D. Reid) whether the National Railway Company, the organization of which was provided for by the National Railway Corporation Act, if I remember the title correctly, passed in 1918, has been formed, and if so, who are the officers. If nothing has been done in the matter as yet, when may we expect action to be taken under that legislation?

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Railways): No action has been taken in that direction as yet. We have been waiting until it was decided what action was to be taken in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway system, so that in forming the organization we could take into consideration all the railways that go to make up the National system.

UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PAPERS.

Mr. McMASTER:

For a copy of all correspondence, agreements and contracts, between the Government and any banks touching the payment of officers