

The facts are these: the minister himself has definitely admitted that these men in their request for an increase are in a sound and correct position, that the request is reasonable, because, he says, "I have recommended it twice." If he has recommended it twice, he has twice confirmed the justice of their cause. Surely, if the cause of these men is just, it is the business of the government, in spite of any commission, to see that justice is done to them. But, the minister says, we have no way of doing it. Well, Mr. Chairman, I hold in my hands the estimates of this year. I can take the estimates of any other year and cite half a dozen cases where the ministers of the crown have disregarded the Civil Service Act. Mark you, there is not a dollar for the underpaid \$90 a month postal carrier. The government does not dare to pass any statute that might contravene the Civil Service Act. Oh no, that would never do. The minister said: Why, to ask me to do that, to ask me to trample on the Civil Service Act is outrageous. Very good. I find in the estimates for this year this item:

Washington—representation, including salaries and allowances for Minister Plenipotentiary, secretaries and staff, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act, \$100,000.

Here is another item:

Paris—representation, including salaries and allowances for Minister Plenipotentiary, secretaries and staff, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act, \$80,000.

Just below that there is another item, worded in the same way, of \$80,000 for our representative in Tokyo and his staff. The men in these offices are provided for, regardless altogether of the Civil Service Act. I turn to the National Revenue department. On page 67 of the estimates I find this item:

Salaries and contingent expenses of the several ports in the Dominion, including pay for overtime of officers, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act, \$8,064,000.

On the same page is another item to be paid to the Department of Justice for secret preventive service. The item goes on to say that the amount is required to create positions, and so forth, "notwithstanding anything contained in the Civil Service Act." In short, if the words "notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act" were not contained in these items, the action of the government in connection with the appointments in question could not be taken. In every case this action is taken, as the minister says, to trample upon the Civil Service Act. Now we are not asking the minister to trample upon the Civil Service Act. We are asking him to do justice to the demand of these men who have a griev-

ance, a demand which the minister himself both in the house and in correspondence has admitted to be just. He says he himself has recommended it. I am going to read this again. This is Mr. Foran's letter of April 4th to the Postmaster General:

I am further directed to advise you that if, notwithstanding the representations made by the commission in its letter to the Secretary of State of May 23, 1928, it is the desire of the government to provide higher compensation for postal and other related classes, the commissioners would be pleased to receive directions on this matter as were given in 1925 under the provisions of P.C. 1644, a copy of which is also attached hereto.

There is not any doubt that P. C. 1644, was a legal document. I think it might be just as well to read it into the record so that the analogy may be properly drawn by those who care to read it:

P.C. 1644.

Certified copy of a minute of a meeting of the committee of the privy council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 1th of September, 1925.

The committee of the privy council have had before them a report, dated 11th September, 1925, from the Hon. Charles Murphy, Postmaster General, submitting, on behalf of the subcommittee of council which met the representatives of the postal employees on June 4, 1925, and heard their objections to the salary schedules as finally revised by the Civil Service Commission, a verbatim report of the proceedings at the interview mentioned.

The minister recommends that the said report be forwarded to the Civil Service Commission, with the view of having that body make an upward revision of the salaries in question, in the light of the representations made by the representatives of the postal employees at the said interview, and in accordance with the attached summary, which reflects the opinion and confirms the judgment of the Post Office Department as embodied in the salary schedules submitted to the Civil Service Commission in 1924.

The minister represents, that having regard to the fact that the salary schedules for the entire civil service are coordinated, it will naturally follow that the representations made on behalf of the clerical service by the civil service association of Ottawa which have been received since the date of the interview above mentioned, will be considered by the Civil Service Commission in conjunction with such action as the commission may take in regard to the salaries of the postal employees.

The minister further recommends that these additional representations be also forwarded to the Civil Service Commission so that a comprehensive decision that will apply to the entire civil service may be reached at the earliest possible date.

The committee concur in the foregoing and submit the same for Your Excellency's approval.

E. J. Lemaire,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

Now, all that is required is that the minister should take to council a recommendation that in his opinion,—and he already has stated