

operations by the company or the incurring of any liabilities by the company before ten per centum of its authorized capital has been subscribed and paid for, shall be jointly and severally liable with the company for the payment of any such liabilities so incurred.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: So the directors are relieved only of the liability under section 114; that is, it is no longer required that 10 per cent be paid up before the company begins business?

Mr. RINFRET: That is right.

Section agreed to.

Sections 32 to 42 inclusive agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Post office—outside service—salaries and allowances, \$18,632,694.40.

Mail service, including mail service by air, \$17,267,000.

Miscellaneous, including \$5,000 for the payment of compassionate allowances to employees injured while in the performance of their duties, or to the dependents of employees killed while on duty, such payments to be made only on the specific authority of the governor in council, \$1,286,675.

Yukon territory, \$150,000.

Total, \$37,336,369.40.

Mr. MacLAREN: Mr. Chairman, whenever this item dealing with the pay of our letter carriers is brought before the committee I take the opportunity of making some reference to this body of civil servants, and I always do so with much pleasure. I believe they are a very efficient body of public servants. It is my experience, and I am sure it is shared by other members of the committee, that they are industrious, trustworthy and courteous and are giving much satisfaction to the general public. I have before me a statement with reference to the work of the letter carriers from which I wish to quote two or three paragraphs. This is the first:

Letter carriers' work embraces all divisions of the manipulative postal service and yet letter carriers are rated much lower than those who only work on one division, and who are seldom, if ever, called upon to work without supervision, or to make decisions, or act on their own initiative, all of which are a daily occurrence with the letter carriers, and when such are satisfactory, all is well, but when they turn out to be wrong, then the carrier is at fault, not the system.

And again:

It was submitted to the experts who classified the service in 1919 that the duties and

responsibilities of letter carriers were equal, if not greater, and certainly more exacting than any other branch of the manipulative staff of postal employees.

This is the third paragraph:

Additional duties have been recently imposed, such as delivery of householder matter, cartons, et cetera, which largely increase his burdens.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is no question whatever that the letter carriers are not only regular and energetic in the performance of their duties, but that they actually undergo hard work. We must have seen them with their heavy parcels, in all weathers, discharging their duties.

It is well known that the letter carriers are not content with their present rate of pay. They are performing their duties in a very satisfactory manner, and I think it is only due to them that their case should be considered in the most careful way. It seems to me that the Postmaster General should adopt other measures than those already taken to secure additional pay for our letter carriers. I believe we are all not only willing but desirous that an increase of pay should be given to this class of public servants. The Postmaster General states that he has made representations to the Civil Service Commission, which no doubt is the case; but he has failed to secure an increase of pay. I believe there are other methods to which he and the government can have recourse, and I hope they will take some step leading to definite action. I do not think it is the wish of the country that these men should remain discontented when they actually merit a higher rate of pay. Again I urge the Postmaster General to take such measures as will effect an improvement in the remuneration of these very efficient public servants.

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Postmaster General): Mr. Chairman, when the committee was dealing with this item last week, the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) asked me if I could furnish him with information on three questions that he submitted. The first was:

1. How many men have been added to the service who are not subject to the Civil Service Act?

The answer to that is, four. His second question was:

2. What is the maximum salary they are receiving?

The answer is: three machinists are paid at prevailing rates, 90 cents an hour, based on an 8-hour day and a 44-hour week. They are paid time and a half for overtime. There