

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS—PROTECTION

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, I would call the attention of the Postmaster General (Mr. Veniot) to Hansard of Thursday, April 7. At page 2031 he is reported as saying:

During the recess a thorough investigation will be made with a view to devising some scheme by which we can give greater protection to our newspapers and periodicals in competition with American publications.

Was the hon. minister correctly reported? If so, how far will he be prepared to go in that direction?

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Postmaster General): My reference to protection was not in the sense that perhaps my hon. friend understands it. What I was referring to was the protection of our newspaper publishers and dealers against the influx of American newspapers and periodicals of a nature such as was discussed on that occasion—that is, detrimental to the morals of our youth.

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES ACT

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 123 to amend the North West Territories Act.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

SUPPLY

CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES

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

Miscellaneous—to provide for flat increases to the Civil Service, both inside and outside, \$2,700,000.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State): When this item was called last night I proceeded to give an explanation of the proposed salary revision but I acceded to the request of one hon. member opposite that I defer until to-day any statement that I wished to make, in order that it might be presented to a full House. The points I made last night were these. In revising the salaries of civil servants we had to consider three aspects of the question: first, the total sum of money to be expended; secondly, the classification of the civil service as it now exists; and thirdly, previous increases that might have been granted since 1924 to different classes of the service. I reminded the com-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

mittee that in 1924 the bonus that had been granted to meet the high cost of living was removed in certain cases, reduced in others, or simply prolonged on a gradual scale towards disappearance. The proposal now before the committee is based on the principle of a flat increase to the different classes of the service in receipt of salaries up to \$5,100. I explained last night that other projects were submitted to us. Either through correspondence or otherwise the suggestion came that we should grant increases rather to the lower classes among whom the need apparently was greatest. Others, on the contrary, suggested that the increases should go to men of special knowledge, technical men, whose services we could not very well dispense with. They thought that the increase should be a recognition of merit. However, the Civil Service Association, who appeared before us, took the stand that the flat increase would be the best thing and would give most satisfaction. As I observed last night, the tendency is very much the same as in unions of labour men, to have uniform wages irrespective of the quantity or quality of the work performed within given classes of the union.

The proposal is of a dual nature. First it raises the minimum and maximum in every class of the service by the sum of \$120 except in the case of the lowest minimum, that is, the entrant class. That has not been touched. Our reason for not increasing the lowest minimum was that entrants to the service are not affected and we thought we should not touch that minimum. This increase is not only for the present year but is a permanent addition; so that every civil servant not only receives immediate consideration but has an increased maximum at which he may hope to arrive in the future. The other aspect of the increase is the improvement in civil service salaries by the sum mentioned. We thought that we should have to make some exceptions in this regard but I will not deal with them. They may, however, be summed up in three classes. First, no increase will be given to temporary employees, that is to say, the temporary class whose salary is the minimum of grade 1 and which has not been increased. We could not grant to any temporary employee a salary higher than the minimum of the class in which he happens to be classified. The spirit of the law recognizes these temporary employees merely as help engaged for one or two months, or perhaps four months, and they are really not in the service. They are temporary in the strictest sense of the word. I suggest that if some of