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## HERE AND THERE.

The annual meeting of District Organisers of the Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association of Great Britain was held at Leeds, on Saturday, January 26. Representatives of the Postmen's Federation were in attendance.

Mr. F. T. Richardson (Organising Secretary), in the course of his remarks said the results of the recent visiting scheme had exceeded the most sanguine hopes of the Organising Committee. Since last Conference they had all been exceedingly busy dealing with the important developments in Association activity. The Association had adopted a Forward Policy—a policy which entailed the adoption of the strike as a weapon, an increase in subscriptions, and a proposal to affiliate with the Labour Party. In no single instance had that policy met with anything but a cordial reception. After all the thing that mattered most was the spirit of the membership. The E. C. and the D.O.'s had discovered that in the branches there was plenty of the right spirit. They had found an intelligent appreciation of and an enthusiasm for the new policy. The keenest interest had been displayed by the branches, and the visitors had, on the occasion of the recent tours, found the members very anxious to make the new movement a great success. Without desiring to make invidious distinction, he felt that he must pay a very high tribute to the fine work of the women district and branch officers of the Association. They had risen to the occasion splendidly, and by doing excellent work had enabled the Association flag to be kept high. An important feature of the immediate work of the organising department would be to help forward the arrangements—which he hoped would soon mature—for amalgamation with the Postmen's Federation. He was glad to report that the negotiations were progressing splendidly. An important matter for their serious consideration would be as to what methods of organising should be employed in the amalgamated society. Their friends of the P. F. worked by means of district councils. The whole question of organisation was, however, now being considered by a joint committee of the two organisations.

Do not forget the Halifax relief fund. Every little helps.

Saskatoon has already elected its delegate to the Toronto Convention.

## A FURTHER INCREASE DESIRED.

Food production is a serious problem confronting the Government. Even with proper regulation of man—and woman—power food values will continue to increase and prices of the necessities of life will enhance very considerably. The number of non-producers, who have to be fed and clothed, training and actually engaged in the art of destruction is increasing, and this phenomena coupled with the unavoidable increase in the cost of labour power expended in production is bound to increase the cost of living. Obviously, then, wages must increase if a National catastrophe of an economic character is to be averted. It is conceded that there has been a steady rise in wages since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, though not in proportion to the rise in commodity prices. But it is noticeable that many public bodies, financial corporation and commercial institutions have granted substantial additions to the salaries (or wages) of their employees. The Toronto School Board recently granted a considerable increase in the salaries of teachers. About 800 employees of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Company—which is said to have a bank overdraft of over a million dollars—have just received notice that their wages will be increased by \$5 per month very shortly. The civic employees of Saskatoon whose salaries are less than \$150 per month are to have their pay increased by 20 per cent. The Post Office Department's estimates for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1917, provided for an increase of \$100 on salaries up to \$1,600, solely on account of the increased cost of living. This amount is totally inadequate to cope with paramount economic problems, in spite of the fact that most of the employees enjoy an annual increase in salaries of \$100. The cost of living in Canada has increased about sixty per cent since early in 1914. The Association is therefore compelled to emulate Oliver Twist and hold out its porringer and ask for more. Just what request the Association will ask of the Government cannot be stated at this writing. Although the branches have already expressed themselves almost unanimously as to the additional amount to be asked of the Government, circumstances may make it necessary to ask their support to a proposal or proposals regarding the