

and affairs such as few men can lay claim to. He is probably more widely known as a shorthand reporter than any other Canadian.

The Committee reporters of the House of Commons are a separate body from the Debates reporters, and their work, especially in these days of scandal investigations, is often most arduous and most exacting. Their organization is made more complete by the appointment as Chief Reporter of Mr. H. H. Dickson, one of the most experienced and expert of their number. Mr. Dickson, like most of the other reporters, graduated from the Press Gallery where he had an experience of reportorial and editorial work which has helped to fit him for the honourable position to which he has been appointed.

The matter of most general interest to the Public Service of Canada was dealt with as follows:

SALARIES OF MESSENGERS.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. PROULX: I would ask the Prime Minister if he has received a petition signed by 125 messengers asking for an increase of salary. Two years ago, before war broke out, the Minister of Finance stated that it was his intention to introduce a Bill to provide for an increase of salary to civil servants in the lower grades. Nothing has been done since. The cost of living has increased, and it is becoming a very serious matter for many of the employees in the lower grades, especially for those who have families to support. They do not receive a sufficient wage to enable them to support their families properly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, I think the hon. gentleman had better bring up that question on the motion for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

Then on the motion for Committee of Supply:

Mr. PROULX: Mr. Speaker, be-

fore you leave the Chair, I would like to bring to the attention of the Government a matter of public importance. At the end of the session of 1914 my honourable friend the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) said that at the next session it was his intention to introduce a Bill to increase the salaries of civil servants of the lower grades; but nothing has been done in that direction yet. Shortly afterwards war broke out, and since then it has been the alleged policy of the Government not to give any salary increases during the war. This matter was brought before the House a few weeks ago by the hon. member for Two Mountains (Mr. Ethier), and I was in hopes that something would be done this session, but I see nothing in the Estimates providing for an increase in the salaries of the lower grade employees. Some of these men—packers, messengers, sorters and so on—receive only from \$500 to \$600 a year, and they cannot get more than \$800, which is the maximum for that class. Many of these men are married and have families to support, and the Government must know that it is impossible in these days, when the cost of living is so high, for a man to bring up his family properly on \$500 or \$600 a year. I would suggest that the Government grant a flat increase of \$100, but not go beyond the maximum of \$800. When this matter was up a few weeks ago the Minister of Public Works said that there would be no salary increases during the war. I have made inquiries, and find that in the Interior Department alone, in 1915, ten men received salary increases ranging from \$150 to \$500. The annual increase in the lower grades is ordinarily \$50 a year, but in the higher grades it depends upon the recommendation of the head of the department. The Minister of Public Works suggested that these employees who were dissatisfied should enlist and go to the front. I might tell him that seventy-