

## Mr. Lemieux, Postmaster General, foreshadows the extension of the merit system to the Outside Divisions of the Post Office Service.

The most important announcement made to the outside service with regard to the extension of the merit system as promulgated in 1908 is that of Mr. Lemieux, contained in his

speech of April 8. It is definite and specific, and so worth all the generalizations in the world. Mr. Lemieux said:

I have stated, and I repeat, that, in my judgment, the members of the outside service in the larger post offices, such as those of Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Quebec, Vancouver and Victoria, should be placed on the same basis as the members of the inside service at Ottawa. That is my personal view, and I know that it is shared by a large number of members of this House and by members of the government as well. But, for the present, all I can say is, that, in my opinion, the day is not far distant when all those who serve in the outside service in these large city post offices will have to come under the Civil Service Act as introduced in this House two years ago and now working so well for the civil service at Ottawa. I intend, during the recess, with my deputy and my officials, to prepare a classification in order to bring in the members of the outside service in these large offices. I believe, with my hon. friend from East Hamilton (Mr. Barker) that there is no difference in the work done by the members of the inside service and the members of the outside service. If there is a difference, it is in favour, probably, of the outside service, because they sometimes have to serve longer hours than the members of the inside service. So, as I have said, I intend, during the recess, to work up a proper classification, which will give adequate increases to the outside service and bring them, if possible, into the inside service. That is my judgment, that is the policy of the department, and I will do my best to carry it out.

We regret that considerations of space prevent the re-publication of more copious extracts from the debates of April 8 and April 14, — more particularly the references to the proposed increases to the railway mail clerks, post office inspectors, assistant postmasters, superintendents, and assistant postmasters. The increases promised for this year are shown in the following table:

Increases this year in the Post Office Dept.	OLD SCALE.		NEW SCALE.	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Class. Post Office Inspectors.	\$2,000	\$2,600	\$2,500	\$3,500

Assistant Inspectors.	1,200	1,800	1,600	2,500
Superintendents of Railway Mail Service ...	1,500	1,800	1,600	2,500
Assistant Postmasters.	1,100	2,000	1,100	2,800

N.B.—With more favourable provisions governing statutory increases.

The situation with regard to increases in the Post Office Department may accordingly be defined as follows: The lower classes (letter carriers, stampers, sorters, etc.) were given an increase last year. The