

sion accepts either the amount recommended by the Postmaster General or the amount they may fix themselves, that amount is then brought before the treasury board. The treasury board considers the question and submits its decision to council. Then on the decision of council the amount is placed in the main or supplementary estimates.

Mr. HEAPS: Let me see whether I understand the Postmaster General correctly. Sometimes I am a little dense in regard to these questions. Evidently during the past two months the government have been quite prepared to give an increase in salary to the men employed under the jurisdiction of the Postmaster General. I think I am being fair in making that statement. I am glad the Postmaster General and I are apparently in agreement so far. The next thing to do was this: The government were willing to place that amount in the supplementary estimates in order that provision might be made for the men to have the increase this year. I hope I am correct in making that statement.

Mr. VENIOT: If the hon. member just adds to that the words: "provided the Civil Service Commission sanction it."

Mr. HEAPS: In order that the increase may become effective this year, it has to have the sanction of the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. VENIOT: That is right.

Mr. HEAPS: Evidently according to other correspondence on the file, the Civil Service Commission had already receded from their position of 1929 because they say so in that correspondence. If they claim in that correspondence they had already reconsidered their decision of 1929, this means that they were prepared to grant the increases the government were ready to give to the postal workers. There is no other conclusion that I can come to and I do not think there is any other conclusion anybody else can come to, otherwise the Civil Service Commission would have stated in the correspondence under date of April 4: We affirm our decision of 1928 and 1929. They do not say that. They say that they have reconsidered their decision and they are prepared now to grant, so to speak, the request of the government and parliament in respect to giving an increase to these men. I would suggest this to test out the sincerity of the house and also of the Postmaster General himself. I think he wants and we all want to be fair to the men in the employ of the government. Let him bring down in the supplementary estimates an item covering increases to the postal workers. If he does that, I am satisfied there will be no difficulty about its passing the house, because all parties

have been committed to this increase, and I am sure, once it has passed the house, the Civil Service Commission will not hesitate for two minutes to grant the increase to the men in the postal service.

Mr. VENIOT: If it were possible for me to place upon the last communication from the Civil Service Commission the interpretation which the hon. member now places upon it, I would not hesitate for one moment. But that is not the interpretation.

Mr. HEAPS: What is it?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): May I be permitted to read to the committee this clause of the letter of April 4, from the secretary of the Civil Service Commission to the Hon. P. J. Veniot, Postmaster General:

I am further directed to advise you that if, notwithstanding the representations made by the commission in its letter to the Secretary of State of May 23, 1928, it is the desire of the government to provide higher compensation for postal and other related classes, the commissioners will be pleased to receive directions on this matter as were given in 1925 under the provisions of P.C. 1644, a copy of which is also attached hereto.

I have P.C. 1644 passed on the 14th September, 1925, the order referred to. It reads:

The committee of the privy council have had before them a report, dated 11th September, 1925, from the Hon. Charles Murphy, Postmaster General, submitting, on behalf of the subcommittee of council which met the representatives of the postal employees on June 4, 1925, and heard their objections to the salary schedules as finally revised by the Civil Service Commission, a verbatim report of the proceedings at the interview mentioned.

The minister recommends that the said report be forwarded to the Civil Service Commission, with the view of having that body make an upward revision of the salaries in question, in the light of the representations made by the representatives of the postal employees at the said interview, and in accordance with the attached summary, which reflects the opinion and confirms the judgment of the Post Office Department as embodied in the salary schedules submitted to the Civil Service Commission in 1924.

The Civil Service Commission have intimated to the Postmaster General that if he desires an upward revision of those salaries, all he has to do is to submit to them a memorandum, an order in council, similar to that submitted in 1925. The Postmaster General has had that letter before him since April 4, or more than a month. I am going to ask him whether he has taken any steps in the direction of meeting the request of the Civil Service Commission in regard to an upward revision or a reconsideration of salaries as was done by this P.C. 1644. All that is standing in the way of an increase in salary to these employees is a request from