

unable to promote this legislation, I must regret that, even at this late hour of the session, he cannot give the civil servants the relief they were expecting from the Government. The hon. gentleman has been able to promote legislation involving huge sums of money, such as the \$45,000,000 to the Canadian Northern Railway Company, such as the \$14,000,000 which will be spent this year for militia purposes, such as the millions in the main and the supplementary Estimates, all of which will add greatly, I am afraid, to the net debt of Canada; but when the time comes to give the army of civil servants the much-needed relief that they have been clamouring for during these days of high cost of living, the Government simply says: Oh, we will introduce the Bill, but the civil servants must wait until next year to get the benefit of that Bill. That is a very sorry substitute for the expectations of our civil servants.

The Minister of Finance can perhaps well afford to delay the increase of salaries in the higher divisions, but I am speaking now for the under dog; I am speaking for the messengers who receive \$500 a year; I am speaking for those in the lower grades who receive a paltry \$1,000 a year, and who have to meet the rents, the grocery bills and the other necessities of life out of that. Could not this Government of millionaires, so liberal, so lavish with the big corporations, have given one day during the session to find the means of alleviating the sufferings of the thousands and thousands of poor civil servants in the city of Ottawa and elsewhere who are at present unable to pay for the necessities of life with their pittance?

There are some features of the Bill, as announced by the Minister of Finance, that are commendable. It is, however, impossible to pass judgment on a Bill until it is printed. I believe there should be a substantial increase, not so much to those at the top of the ladder as to those at the bottom. The Minister of Finance must read every day in the labour columns of the Journal, the Citizen, and the Free Press, of this city, the lamentations of men and women who are in the Civil Service, working at miserable wages. Surely the Minister of Finance will do something this year to alleviate the sufferings of those poor people. I cannot understand how my hon. friends who represent the city of Ottawa and who support the Government, will let this session pass without obtaining for the civil servants a substantial increase.

I am glad to hear that the Minister of

Finance contemplates placing the outside service on a footing of equality with the inside service, and, as I understand it, the competitive system will extend to both the outside and the inside service. I quite agree with him that it is better to begin with the city of Ottawa in certain branches of the outside service; I agree with him also that the commission would have to be a roving commission to embrace at once all the larger centres of the Dominion; but possibly a system may be evolved which would apply to the larger cities and the larger outside Government offices. I never could understand why the Customs officials—for example, in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Halifax, St. John, and other large cities—should not come under the Civil Service Commission just as do the civil servants in the Customs departments in Ottawa. The same remark would apply to the higher officials in the post offices of the large cities.

As regards the age limit, I agree with the Minister of Finance that, provided there is a reasonable superannuation for civil servants, they should be given that superannuation so as to provide for a more efficient and a younger service. I have been a Minister of the Crown for seven years, and I have had a number of employees under my care in the Post Office Department. It is one of the largest departments of the Government, and I know that there are poor officials who have been in harness for thirty-five and forty years, who are out of joint with the times. They cannot be retired because they have large families to support on relatively small incomes, and no pension to look to. It is therefore a commendable feature of the legislation that a system of superannuation is to be established so as to enable the older civil servants to retire.

As regards the deputy heads, my hon. friend may be quite right in stating that some of them may deserve an increase on account of the special nature of their work, and that some others might well remain at the present figure, namely, \$5,000; but my hon. friend is fresh in the Government, although he is very able, and certainly during the last three years he has gathered wonderful experience; but if he begins to differentiate between the deputy heads—I do not know if he believes in purgatory—I hope he does, although he comes from Toronto—he will know what purgatory in this world is.

Mr. WHITE: What about the deputy Minister of Justice last year?