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MEMORIAL

on Behalf of the Inside Civil Service Regarding Immediate Financial Relief to Meet the Increase in the Cost of Living

(This memorial is reproduced at this time in order that the members of the Inside Service may know that the officers of their Association did all that was humanly possible on their behalf.)

The Civil Service Association of Ottawa beg leave to submit for the consideration of the Government the appeal contained herein for some measure of financial relief to the Inside Service at Ottawa.

While the Civil Service Bill, No. 53, of the present session was in course of preparation, and before its provisions were made public, the Service, generally, entertained the hope and expectation that the salary schedules would be so framed as to afford a measure of relief in order to enable them to meet, at least to some extent, the inordinate increase in the cost of living. Much disappointment was caused when it was found that the figures of the schedules of 1908 had been practically adhered to, and, further, that the proposed schedule would not become effective until the reorganization of the Inside Service had been effected under Section 10 of the Bill, which will involve a delay of at least one year before such relief (if any) as the schedule may afford can be realized.

Under the circumstances the Association has authorized its officers to ask the Government to provide during the present session for a "cost of living bonus," to enable them to meet their present pressing needs and to afford them a measure of relief until such time as the proposed schedule becomes effective.

Figures furnished by the Department of Labour show that the cost of living in Canada has increased 50 per cent in the last four years (1914-1917) and 100 per cent since

1909, when the present salary schedules of the Inside Service first became effective.

This means that the purchasing power of the dollar has been reduced by 25 per cent and 50 per cent during those respective periods, or, in other words, that a person spending \$100 per month in 1914 would, to live on the same plane in 1918, have to spend \$150, and one spending \$100 per month in 1909 would have to spend \$200 in 1918.

This in the case of a fixed salary of \$100 per month would, of course, be an impossibility, with the result that the only alternative left would be to reduce the expenditure, if possible, from 25 to 50 per cent. The discomfort and hardship, and even suffering, resulting from such a course, especially when the obtaining of the necessities of life are involved, need not be enlarged upon here.

It may be claimed that Civil Service salaries are not stationary, owing to the receipt of annual increases. While not admitting that such annual increases were ever given for the purpose of offsetting any increase in the cost of living, it may be admitted that under the present circumstances they do afford some measure of relief to those who receive them. There are, however, many in the Service who have been for some years at the maximum of their grades and have not, therefore, had even such measure of relief. But, at the best, the relief thus afforded, is not in any sense commensurate with the increased cost of living.