

ber 8, and a letter from Mr. Wm. Foran to Mr. J. B. Hunter dated December 10.

I beg to be allowed to emphasize the importance of the letter written by Mr. Carvell, nearly five months ago which says "Have discussed same in Council, and we finally decided to grant an increase in wages of 25c. per day to all the charwomen rather than consider the matter on a bonus basis." I also wish to emphasize the fact that the official, under whose jurisdiction the office cleaners carry on their work, has stated that \$1.25 was a fair wage, in Ottawa, for the class of work performed. There are some nine hundred women involved in this connection, many are widows of returned soldiers and a great many with young children dependent upon them. They have to leave their homes between five and six, in a great many cases and do not return again until ten. I mention these facts in passing but chiefly wish to emphasize the agreement made on behalf of the Governor-in-Council, as conveyed to Madame Mercier, by the Hon. Mr. Carvell and it would be an extremely happy event for all concerned if you would answer before the coming Christmas day, that this agreement, made by the Government to so many poor and widowed women, was to be carried into effect.

Faithfully yours,

F. GRIERSON,

President.

Copies of the four letters reproduced hereunder were attached to the foregoing letter to Mr. Sifton.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 1, 1919.

Dear Madam Mercier:—

I have not only considered the representations made by yourself and friends when before me last week, but have discussed the same in Council, and we have finally decided to grant an increase in wages of 25c. per day to all the charwomen rather than consider the matter from a bonus basis. The difficulty is that, as you are not employed during the whole day it could create a precedent which might cause considerable difficulty in other branches of the Service in different parts of Canada. After very careful consideration we have come to the conclusion we would not be justified in increasing the salary to \$1.50 as you requested, but have made it \$1.25, dating from the 1st day of July last.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. P. CARVELL.

Madam Mercier,

Pres. C. S. Cleaners' Assn.,

Ottawa, Ont.

Ottawa, Ont., October 20, 1919.

Dear Sir:— I duly received your favor of the 8th inst., in further reference to Mr. O'Connor's letter of September 4, addressed to the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, with respect to granting an increase in salary from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day to the charwomen employed by the Public Works Dept., and in reply beg to state that a recommendation was made to Council by Hon. Mr. Carvell, under date of August 1, 1919, for authority to make

the increase referred to, but same has been returned to the Department without any action having been taken thereon.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. B. HUNTER.

Ch. J. Tully, Esq.,

Sec.-Treas. Civil Service

Federation of Canada.

Ottawa, Ont., December 6, 1919.

Dear Sir:—On behalf of Sir Robert Borden, I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of December 1, and to request that the special committee of the Executive Board of the Civil Service Federation shall in the first instance take up the grievances of the Office Cleaners' Association of Ottawa, with the Minister directly in charge.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) GEO. W. YATES,

Prime Minister's Secretary.

Ch. J. Tully, Esq.,

Sec.-Treas., Executive Board

Civil Service Fed. of Canada.

Ottawa, Ont., December 10, 1919.

Dear Mr. Hunter:—

You will remember on the 1st August last the Honorable the Minister of Public Works submitted to the Treasury Board a recommendation that the wages of charwomen employed in connection with the cleaning of Government offices at Ottawa be increased from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day, such increase to date from the 1st of July, 1919, no bonus to be paid to employees of this staff. On the 29th August this recommendation was referred to the Civil Service Commission for consideration. The matter was duly considered by the Commission and was approved, and the Secretary of the Treasury Board was notified on the 11th September to that effect. Representations are now being made to the Commission that these rates of pay have never been put into effect, and the matter is brought to your attention for such action as you may deem it fit to take. Under the new classification, adopted by Parliament at this last Session, the compensation for charwomen is fixed as "prevailing rates of pay", and Mr. Commissioner Jameson states that in this connection Mr. Shearer of your Department appeared as a witness before the Board of Hearing and testified that \$1.25 per day was a fair wage in Ottawa. It should be pointed out, therefore, that, if the Department regards \$1.25 per day as prevailing rates for charwomen, this class of employees may be paid accordingly, and I am directed to submit the matter for your favorable consideration.

Yours truly,

WM. FORAN,

Secretary.

J. B. Hunter, Esq.,

Deputy Minister of Public Works

The reply to the application to Mr. Sifton of December 23 was received from Mr. Hunter, Deputy Minister, and was in the

negative. The Federation had no recourse but to appeal to the Prime Minister which was much to be regretted on account of the state of Sir Robert's health. The president of the Federation received a message from Mr. Yates that the Premier was unable to give the matter his personal attention, but that the case would be brought up in Council at the earliest opportunity.

### The Commission

The following letters addressed to the Commission deal with outstanding matters, and are self explanatory:—

December 27, 1919.

Wm. Foran, Esq.,

Secretary,

Civil Service Commission,

Dear Mr. Foran:—

I am in receipt of many enquiries, regarding the future operations of the Board of Hearings. I desire to ask you, please, to furnish me with some information as to future meetings to be held and other particulars in regard thereto. It has been stated that personal appeal will not be heard by the Board. This does not seem to me to be in accord with the spirit of the letter addressed to me by yourself and which we published broadly throughout the Service in order to obtain the widest possible support for classification from our organizations.

Trusting you will enlighten me as soon as possible on this subject, as there is a very widespread dissatisfaction throughout the Service on this account.

F. GRIERSON,

President.

A reply to the above letter was received on January 12th, which was too late for reproduction in this issue. The reply was the immediate result of delegations to the Commission asking, in view of the great unrest, especially in the Ottawa Service, for the application of the Whitley Council scheme and for an independent Board of Appeal. These representations were made by the executives of the Federation and the C. S. A. of Ottawa. The Commission would not recede from its previous attitude, i. e., that objections to the schedules must be made to the Board of Hearing and that appeals against the application of schedules to the personnel must be made to the Commission through the Deputy Ministers.

### Bonus while on Sick Leave

December 27, 1919.

Dear Mr. Foran:—

I am in receipt of many enquiries regarding the payment of the bonus to a civil servant while on sick leave, and I would thank you to advise me, at your earliest convenience, as to the probable date of the passing of the proposed Order in Council in this connection.

At the same time, I would remind you of your letter of the 4th instant regarding bonus for agents of Dominion lands. The subject brought to your attention in my