

the estimates, with a recommendation to the treasury board. As appears from the correspondence read by the hon. member, the Civil Service Commission refused to give their permission to the increases, stating that they did not consider they were necessary. I then had to withdraw that amount before the treasury board, and it was not dealt with any further by that board. Later on I again saw the Civil Service Commission to see if they had changed their former decision, and their reply—as appears from the correspondence—was that they had not. They went on to say that if we proceeded in the manner adopted in 1925, they would consider an increase in the salaries. We were not given the authority to place any amount in the supplementary estimates. If the matter should be considered by the government and the intention of the government were made known to the Civil Service Commission, they might or might not act. The desire of the government for the increases has been expressed to them by the Postmaster General, and they have so far refused to grant those increases.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. VENIOT: I do not intend to be thrown off my argument. There are too many attempts being made to throw ministers off their arguments.

Mr. STEVENS: That is nonsense.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I only want to ask a question.

Mr. VENIOT: I am endeavouring to give all the information possible and I think I should be allowed to do so in my own way; I intend to do so in my own way.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is the hon. minister's old way, and he did not get very far with it.

Mr. VENIOT: If that is a threat on the part of the hon. member I am quite prepared to accept it.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The hon. minister will get it.

Mr. VENIOT: That did not give the government the authority to place in the estimates the amount which had already been recommended, and that is why that amount does not appear to-day. If the hon. member wishes to ask a question, I am prepared to answer it to the best of my ability.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Were the increases recommended by the Postmaster General granted in part?

Mr. VENIOT: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is all I wanted to ask.

[Mr. Veniot.]

Mr. VENIOT: I will explain why; I do not think it should be allowed to be dropped right there.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): You did not tell us that.

Mr. VENIOT: The question did not come up. The increases recommended were for postal helpers, porters, postal clerks, letter carriers and railway mail clerks. The increases granted as recommended were granted by the Civil Service Commission only to the railway mail clerks.

Mr. HEAPS: There is in the correspondence a very significant letter which does not altogether tally with the statements made now by the Postmaster General.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is nothing new.

Mr. HEAPS: I will read it again because it is short. It is dated March 31, 1930, and addressed to the chairman of the Civil Service Commission by the Postmaster General. It reads:

The government has again considered the question of increasing salaries of letter carriers, postal helpers, etc.

That is only about five weeks ago. Then we have another statement regarding putting an item in the supplementary estimate. You cannot divorce one thing from the other because in the same letter I have just read is the question of placing in the supplementary estimates an item for what purpose? Because the government have considered the question of increasing the salaries of the letter carriers. If an item went into the supplementary estimates it was only for the purpose of increasing the salaries of members of the postal staff and the next formality, if I might put the matter that way, was for the Civil Service Commission to apportion the money.

Mr. VENIOT: No.

Mr. HEAPS: Will the Postmaster General tell me if the government considered granting increases to the members of the postal service, how was this increase, after the money was provided for in the supplementary estimates, to be granted?

Mr. VENIOT: I have already detailed the procedure. The department in considering the various classes named, either three or four, calculate what the increases to be recommended to the commission will amount to. They place before the commission their recommendation for an increase of salary amounting to so and so, as the case may be in each class. If the commission consider that a sufficient increase, they can accept it if they will at that figure or they can increase it themselves. Once the Civil Service Commis-