

PRECEDENT IS ESTABLISHED.

Washington, April 6.—The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads has announced that hearings are to be held on the Penrose-Griffin "Indefinite leave of absence" bill on Friday, April 7. This bill provides that superannuated employees in the postal service will be granted indefinite leave of absence with pay. All employees in the Railway Mail Service, Rural Free Delivery Service, the City Free Delivery Service and Post Office Clerks will be affected.

This is the first time in history that the subject has been taken up by the Post Office Committee, and indications are that the Hearings will develop the fact that a large number of Congressmen are in favor of the measure. It is expected that many Congressmen will appear before the committee in addition to the representatives of postal organizations and others.

This is a signal victory for the "Big Four" postal organizations. It seems but a short time ago that the U.N.A.P.O.C. announced the Griffin-Penrose bill as "The Paramount Issue" of the association, and now through the untiring and persevering efforts of its officers representing it here in Washington and of the officers of the Railway Mail and Letter Carriers Associations, definite action is being taken with a view to bringing about the desired legislation.

Washington, April 14.—The Penrose-Griffin Indefinite Leave of Absence Bill has been reported favorably by the House Committee.

"The sub-committee feels," says the report, "that if the present Civil Service policy is to be continued some means must be devised so that the average age of the employees in the Service will not increase beyond the point where the maximum of ser-

vice within the eight hours of employment may be expected.

"As Assistant Postmaster General Roper has expressed it, "alertness, dexterity, quickness of hand and eye and other qualities of youth are peculiarly required for the performance of post office work."

THE MESSENGERS.

In the House of Commons, on 11th April, Mr. J. A. C. Ethier, M.P. for Two Mountains, called attention to the condition of the Civil Service messengers. He read the letter signed "Humanity" which appeared in the Ottawa Journal on 17th February last, urgently demanding an increase of pay for the messengers. He also backed this with a strong plea in the course of which he said that some messengers were, in fact, performing the duties of clerks. He concluded his address as follows:

"I speak especially of the Civil Service messengers, because I am interested in their case. It was explained to me, and when I learned the facts I was surprised to find such injustice existing in Canada, the country of liberty, where all are supposed to have equal rights. These people are entitled to be paid in proportion to the duties they perform, and in proportion to the cost of living. I submit these remarks with the best of intentions, hoping that something may be done in favour of those deserving civil servants."

The reply on behalf of the Government was made by Hon. Robert Rogers who said that if people did not like to accept messengerships at \$500 to begin with they had the choice of seeking employment on Western farms or enlisting for overseas service. He proceeded:

"So, in view of present conditions, I do not think my hon. friend has much to support his statement. But