

January, 1917, which would mean that the largest Department in the Outside Service would only receive a few thousand dollars of the three millions to be voted. It was also explained that a very large number of unmarried employees in the service were supporting families, and in some instances had a heavier burden to carry than some of the married men and it was urged that some provision should be made for them. Both Mr. McLean and Mr. Calder were most sympathetic after hearing the arguments advanced, and acceded to our request to change the date from January 1st, 1917, to April 1st, 1918, and to make provision for unmarried employees with dependents. Mr. Grierson made a plea for messengers of the Inside Service, most of whom are married men with families, and they were also provided for in the appropriation.

It was suggested during the course of this conference that there was a possibility that this year's allowance would wipe out the war bonus of last year, and the Minister of Finance suggested to the writer that the Acting Postmaster General should be seen as to this. The Hon. Mr. Doherty upon being interviewed stated that it was not clear to him just what effect the new allowance would have on last year's bonus, and intimated it was a matter for consideration. Your representative then prepared a memorandum setting forth very clearly the disastrous effect of cancelling the previous allowance, and in a subsequent interview with the Hon. Mr. Doherty, McLean and Calder, this memorandum was discussed at some length. No definite decision has been handed down on this point, but it is reasonably certain that the Government will not be guilty of such an act of injustice. It has been thought wise, however, to clear up any misconception as to the actual working out of this new allowance, and the following letter has been sent to the Acting Postmaster General:

Ottawa, May 30th, 1918.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, D.C.L., LL.D.,
Acting Postmaster General,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—

In addressing you in regard to a matter

affecting the postal clerks, I take the earliest opportunity afforded me, since the prorogation of Parliament, to express on behalf of the entire Service our sincere appreciation of the kindness with which we were at all times received by yourself and the other members of the Government.

The matter which I would like to place before you for consideration is the provisional allowance recently voted by Parliament and the manner in which it will affect the postal clerks in your service. It would seem that the provisional allowance granted to your Department at the last session of Parliament, and which was re-voted again in the main estimates at this session has resulted in some confusion, when considered in conjunction with the provisional allowance granted to the Outside Service contained in the "Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons," on page 557, vote No. 419, dated May 23rd, 1918.

A memorandum has already been submitted to you on behalf of the Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada directing your attention to the probable effect of the cancellation of last year's allowance, if such action was ever intended. The officers of this Federation do not believe that the Government proposes to do this, but a good deal of uneasiness has developed in the minds of postal clerks which has resulted in a great number of enquiries being received at Ottawa asking for an explanation.

I am taking the liberty of repeating this memorandum in a slightly amended form so that you may have it before you concurrently with this letter. The new matter in this memorandum is set out in capitals.

We desire to come between you and a voluminous array of letters and telegrams on this subject, and shall be very deeply grateful if you will, with your usual kindness, direct answers to the following questions:

- (1) Does the allowance granted at the recent session of Parliament wipe out the allowance granted last year to the Outside Service of the Post Office Department?
- (2) Does the allowance of this year apply to clerks in semi-staff post offices?
- (3) Does the word "allowance" in the last line of paragraph "a" refer exclusively to the allowance granted this