

had not been put through? Every member here, I believe, knows the experience we had with the riot that occurred during the latter part of last year.

I am sure that if the saloons had been open, conditions would have been very much worse. As it was, there were several broken heads, and there are claims against the city amounting to from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for property destroyed. I think the provincial government did the right thing at the right time, and I hope the legislation will be continued, notwithstanding the fact that many people will say that the provincial government acted in an autocratic manner in putting this legislation on the statute-book. I have had considerable experience as a retailer, and I have seen considerable of the evil effects of drinking. It is not the drinker himself but his wife and children who suffer the most. I am prepared to hold up both hands in favour of temperance legislation, both provincial and Dominion.

Since last session there has been quite a restless feeling among the employees of the outside Civil Service. Last session I received many letters from employees of different branches of the Civil Service asking for consideration of their case, as owing to the high cost of living many found it difficult to make ends meet. We felt last session that the Government would relieve this condition, but they did not, and the result was that a strike took place in Toronto. A large deputation came to Ottawa to interview the Government, and I must express my appreciation of the interest taken in the matter by the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr. Sheard) who accompanied the delegation. The delegation had two or three conferences with the Government and went home with the feeling that something would be done. But relief has not been afforded up to this day, and a spirit of restlessness continues to prevail among many thousand employees of the Government. It may not be necessary to give the men all that they are asking, but something must be done, or we shall have a bigger strike still, not only in Toronto but throughout the Dominion, and a bigger deputation coming to Ottawa, accompanied perhaps by many members of Parliament. The Government should not wait to be forced. I cannot understand their failing to see that the men have a grievance which should be remedied, and I trust the Government will at once take action to satisfy the men.

The postmasters of the substations in Toronto have also a grievance, and the same remark applies to Montreal, Winnipeg and

[Mr. Foster.]

Hamilton. A deputation representing the substation postmasters waited upon me just before I left for Ottawa. They state that the maximum salary paid at present is \$200

per year, and to reach this, the office must furnish a revenue of not less than \$5,000 yearly. This amount is raised altogether from the sale of stamps. I will quote from their petition to the Deputy Postmaster General:

In view of the great increase in the cost of living, advancing rents, and higher pay for help of any description, your petitioners respectfully ask that the maximum salary paid be \$400 yearly to officers producing a revenue of \$5,000 or more, and to smaller revenue-producing officers in proportion. All commissions to remain the same as at present, excepting postage stamps, which will be increased to 2 per cent and that itinerant vendors' licenses be discontinued.

These itinerant vendors sell a great number of stamps, to the disadvantage of the small vendor who is put to large expense and receives such a small return. This is a matter that the Government should deal with. Two or three people should not be allowed to get the cream of the business, but that has been the case for years and years. The subpostmasters of Toronto feel that in view of the high rents and high cost of heat and light to-day they should receive higher remuneration. They have told me that if the Government does not afford them some relief they will be obliged to give up these substations. If they do that, more clerks will have to be employed to handle the work, and the cost will be greater than at present. So I think it is in the interests of the Government itself to try and meet the demand of these people.

There has been considerable discussion of the Civil Service Commission, which has been described as a very iniquitous body. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Hocken) and the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) have already spoken on this subject, and I think before the debate closes we shall hear more about the Civil Service Commission from other hon. gentlemen. Where there is so much smoke I think there must be a little fire, although I must admit that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean) put up a very good defence.

There are rumours, and the public verily believe these rumours, and the only way in which they can be satisfied is to have an investigation. The hon. member for West Toronto and the hon. member for Frontenac have made certain statements. We have heard the reply to these statements. The public have read both the statements and the reply; they have read