

clerk and railway mail clerk was given very careful consideration by the commissioners and that their decision is that there should be no increase granted in the basic rates for these classes.

That is signed by W. Foran, the secretary. Then there is another letter addressed to Hon. P. J. Veniot, Postmaster General, under date of March 9, 1929, just about fourteen months ago, and also signed by W. Foran as secretary of the Civil Service Commission. It is as follows:

Sir:

Your recent communication confirming your previous recommendation for higher compensation for the classes postal clerk, letter carrier and mail porter has been placed before the Board of Civil Service Commissioners.

After full consideration of the subject matter in your letter the commissioners have decided to confirm their decision of May 2, 1928, which was communicated to the Deputy Postmaster General by a letter of the same date, that further increase in the compensation of these classes is not justified.

I am rather surprised that any commission such as the Civil Service Commission, in some respects under the control of parliament, would attempt to justify a wage of less than \$90 per month to be paid to employees of the government.

The next is a communication dated March 31, 1930, addressed to the Hon. W. J. Roche, chairman, Civil Service Commission, Ottawa. It reads as follows:

The government has again considered the question of increasing salaries of letter carriers, postal helpers, et caetera. I would be pleased if you would let me know if your board are willing to reconsider the decision reached in this matter, so that I can make arrangements for placing an item in the supplementary estimates.

Yours truly,

P. J. Veniot.

The next communication is dated April 4, 1930, from the secretary of the Civil Service Commission and addressed to the Postmaster General. I will read only the last sentence because I believe that is all this parliament or this house would be interested in. This sentence has a very direct bearing on the matter now under discussion, and reads as follows:

I am further directed to advise you that if, notwithstanding the representations made by the commission in its letter to the Secretary of State of May 23, 1928, it is the desire of the government to provide higher compensation for postal and other related classes, the commissioners would be pleased to receive directions on this matter as were given in 1925 under the provisions of P.C. 1644, a copy of which is also attached hereto.

According to this sentence which I have read, it would appear that we have been given by the Civil Service Commission the right, so

to speak, to put an item in the supplementary estimates, which item the Civil Service Commission would, no doubt, apportion among the employees of the postal service. After a hurried perusal of the copy of P.C. 1644, I think I am justified in coming to the conclusion that if there is no desire on the part of the Civil Service Commission or the Postmaster General to grant increases to the lower paid men in the postal service, it is not necessary to put an item in the supplementary estimates. Only one conclusion can be arrived at, and that is that the putting of an item in the supplementary estimates would be for the purpose of granting increases, as has been suggested by several hon. members of this house. In view of the fact that the Postmaster General has in his previous declarations and in correspondence tabled to-day shown that he was in favour of granting increases to the postal service, and in view of the fact that the Civil Service Commission has changed its attitude on this question, I cannot reconcile his having changed his attitude. Perhaps I have not read closely and diligently enough the communications addressed to the Postmaster General by the Civil Service Commission. If there is no intention to grant increases to these employees, I cannot understand why it is necessary to put an item in the supplementary estimates. Would the Postmaster General kindly inform this committee for what purpose that item was intended, whether it is to grant an increase to the postal workers or whether it is for some other purpose?

Mr. VENIOT: Under the provisions of the Civil Service Act no increase can be granted by the governor in council or can be considered by the treasury board before whom the estimates come before going to the council. The Civil Service Commission fixes the classification and the rates for each class. In 1927, or perhaps it was 1928, in order to comply with the conditions set forth in the Civil Service Act, as Postmaster General I recommended to the Civil Service Commission an increase in salaries for the classes mentioned in the correspondence which has been read this evening. Previous to that, I had brought the matter before the government, informing the government what that recommendation would mean in dollars and cents. Having received the sanction of the government, I then submitted the matter to the Civil Service Commission. As the whole truth has not been told about this matter, I will have to reveal how this matter came into the estimates at one time. Believing that I had obtained the sanction of the Civil Service Commission, I had an item of \$276,000 placed temporarily in