

**ECONOMIC FACTS.**

Labour economists tell us that there are two kinds of wages: real and nominal; the necessities of life are the real wages; our pay cheques are the nominal or money wages. In other words, our salaries, or wages, are, on the average, based upon the cost of subsistence; sometimes they are slightly—very slightly—higher, and so make a bank balance possible, and sometimes they are lower—much lower—making self-denial imperative. There is every reason, and many facts, to accept this theory of salaries or wages. Employees in nearly every branch of industry made demands, in recent months, for substantial increases in wages on the ground that the purchasing power of their wages had declined, and were insufficient to obtain the necessities of life prescribed by social standing. Employers, generally, looked the facts squarely in the face and granted the demands in accordance with this economic theory. But there is a class of workers still waiting—though the demand has long since been made—for an increase in money wages to counterbalance the increase in real wages. This class is composed of a large number of civil servants, faithful and diligent in their duties, reasonable and diplomatic in their demands, and possessed of temperamental endurance worthy of commendation. At this writing we postal clerks are still waiting for the long promised addition to our salaries to become a joyous reality.

But we are getting a little nearer. The delegation that recently interviewed the Cabinet in our behalf did good work and rendered us invaluable service—in the nick of time. The necessity for aid on account of the higher cost of living was presented to the Ministers in no uncertain way. The semi-staff office question was dealt with in splendid fashion, it being particularly pointed out that an order-in-council could sweep away this injustice to men and efficiency. Whatever success or failure accrues from the efforts of the delegation, there remains the duty of each and every member to concentrate interest and energy in the Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada.

We hope to be able to publish the Convention report in its entirety in the next issue of the "Postal Journal." In order to intelligently read the report, it will be necessary to carefully peruse the Supplementary Agenda appearing in this issue.

**BRANCH NOTES.****Saskatoon.**

Perhaps you have heard that S. W. Foster of Saskatoon is Organizing Secretary for the Association. If not, you know now. Ticked! we have not been so tickled about anything since the P. O. A. F. C. carried off the championship and the sil-

verware. At the last branch meeting the Secretary presented his report on the Convention, which was received with the liveliest satisfaction. Several interesting discussions developed during the evening, in one of which the Treasurer called the V.P. (in the chair) to order for referring to Mr. Wallace, and Tommy Hallett was also "named" for again discussing case exams. It was a warm evening; so much so that the windows had to be opened wide. The resignation of the President was regretfully accepted. The Postmaster was thanked for his courtesy in allowing us the use of the long room for our meeting, an act of consideration which will be better understood when we say that in the old room in the basement one had the feeling of being at the bottom of a well—with the lid shut on the subject of the meeting. More anon.

**Winnipeg.**

Since the excitement of Convention subsided this branch has been meandering along the "cool, sequestered"—rather, it would be, if only that "bonus," the delay of which is a positive menace to the state of one's nerves, alternating between those hot and cold spells as "hope" continues to ebb and flow with every whisper that breathes the word. But, sure it springs eternal—that is, Hope. We may sympathize—but what's the good. "Pat" simply can't sleep a' nights, Louis' gone to the harvest, and we're all going again to Kildonan—not Selkirk—to picnic.

Well, we did have a good time, in spite of all the adverse circumstances we had to contend with. Our prizes were great, our tea fine, our ladies charming, our weather beautiful. The best thanks of the branch are coming to the committee who did their utmost to give the boys, their wives and kiddies the best possible.

That delegation, we feel sure, did a lot of real good work—but that was easy for the case was strong. Now, we want those three big questions settled, i.e., "Bonus," "Semi-staff" and "Qualifying," while we proceed to show the Department how to make the service 100 per cent efficient. Presumption?—not at all.

That was cheering news imparted to our Secretary, that at last we are to see the finish of the "Basement" question,—and this, we understand, does not apply only to Winnipeg. That's almost too good to be true, but it will pay the Department, and they are to be commended on their early recognition of the fact.

So, at last the "Supplementaries" are tabled—and the fervent prayer is on every lip that the result will be very many better stocked tables throughout the homes of the postal servants of the Dominion—and there's lots of room!

Now, if only we had that "Journal" of ours—we've so much to say! S. H. T.