

time and time again that it is his opinion a minimum salary of \$100 a month should be paid to this rank of the civil service, and he should ask his colleagues to pass that and send it to the Civil Service Commission tomorrow, and the Civil Service Commission tomorrow would conform to that request. If the minister is sincere, and if the government are interested in this matter, they can correct it in one meeting of the privy council; there is not the slightest question about it. The minister for three successive sessions has been telling parliament that he has done his best, that he is helpless, that he has passed this on to the Civil Service Commission and the Civil Service Commission have turned it down. The long and short of it is this, that the Civil Service Commission have adopted a certain general principle in the fixation of salaries and the conditions of work of the civil service. It does not follow that they are infallible and that what they do is the last word. It means that they take in their own judgment, a certain line of action in their interpretation of the act. But the act gives the government power on the recommendation of the minister to send to the commission certain instructions. Let him send those instructions to the Civil Service Commission with a distinct recommendation that a minimum salary of \$100 a month should be paid to these underpaid civil servants.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Now, Mr. Chairman, I think it is perfectly clear that for a month the Postmaster General has had before him the request from the Civil Service Commission for action, and there has been none on his part. But some action has been taken by the Postmaster General on the eve of the general election, as I gather from what I read in the Toronto paper to-day. I refer to the following:

Postmen Pleased with New Change for Civil Service.—Drafting Committee Is Established by Order in Council.—London Man Is Named.

The announcement made yesterday that a federal order in council had been passed authorizing the setting up of a drafting committee in connection with the national civil service councils is well received here.

A. McMordie, Dominion general secretary of the federated association of letter carriers, told *The Globe* that this was the fulfilment of a promise made some two years ago.

Similar steps, he said, were taken in England, and the conditions of work and salaries paid were all taken into review.

No intimation had been given of the personnel of the committee or the date when it would be set up.

Mr. McMordie stated that D. W. Rehder of London, Ont., would be the likely representative of the letter carriers to represent that section of the council.

So that apparently on the eve of the general election the Postmaster General has been passing an order in council that is not calculated to give the letter carriers any increase.

Mr. VENIOT: I think the hon. gentleman should get exact information before he passes criticism.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I say "apparently." I shall be very glad if the Postmaster General will tell us all about it.

Mr. VENIOT: The hon. gentleman is so prone to criticize before he knows the facts that to give the facts after criticism has been offered seems to be no good to him. I may say for his information that what he has read is not due to any action by the Postmaster General. That comes from the Department of Labour which has been considering this civil service council for the last year or so, and is now naming a drafting committee composed of representatives of all branches of the civil service to draft regulations. As a matter of fact, I am not sure whether the council has been named or not, but I think it has been. So it has nothing to do with the Postmaster General.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No, we have not half finished with it yet.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

END OF VOLUME II.