

is one temporary labourer paid at the rate of 50 cents an hour for all time worked. His third question was:

Is it not possible for the minister so to adjust the revenues derived from the services rendered by making charges, and securing the sanction of parliament if necessary, to render it possible to pay decent salaries to employees which should be at least \$100 per month?

The hon. leader of the opposition himself recognizes that that is a matter of policy. Although I have been studying the situation to a considerable extent for the past year or two, I am not in a position to answer the third question to-night.

There were some other questions asked on May 2. The hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley) referred to the postal service in connection with Dalesville and stated that it would be quite satisfactory if the patrons of this office were afforded rural mail delivery. I wish to inform him that the department has requested its operating

officers to furnish a report on a rural mail delivery route in the Dalesville district, on account of the difficulty we have had in getting somebody to take charge of the office.

The hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacDonald) drew attention to the closing of the post office at Homeville and asked me if I could establish rural mail delivery there. We are taking the same course there as in respect to Dalesville—we are getting a report from our operating officers to see if we cannot bring the district within a rural mail delivery route so as to provide better service.

The hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion) asked me:

What is the lowest salary paid, and how many men are receiving that salary?

I had the officials of the department go very carefully into this and I am now in a position to give the information that I did not have definitely last week. It is as follows:

| Class title          | Salary rates |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                      | \$1,020      | \$1,140 | \$1,200 | \$1,260 | \$1,320 |         |         |         |         |         |
| Postal Helpers. . .  | 835          | 205     | 1       | 79      | 85      |         |         |         |         |         |
|                      | \$1,080      | \$1,200 | \$1,320 | \$1,440 | \$1,500 |         |         |         |         |         |
| Mail porters. . . .  | 12           | 28      | 61      | 41      | 593     |         |         |         |         |         |
| Letter carriers. . . | 72           | 129     | 195     | 97      | 2,299   |         |         |         |         |         |
|                      | 84           | 157     | 256     | 138     | 2,892   |         |         |         |         |         |
|                      | \$1,080      | \$1,200 | \$1,260 | \$1,320 | \$1,380 | \$1,440 | \$1,500 | \$1,560 | \$1,620 | \$1,680 |
| Postal clerks. . . . | 17           | 76      | 2       | 141     | 9       | 99      | 30      | 98      | 350     | 55      |
|                      |              |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 2,150   |

Another question was brought up the other night I believe by the hon. member for South York (Mr. McGregor)—I am not quite certain it was he who asked it, but that is as I recall it. His question was in connection with the contract for collection from letter boxes and for parcel delivery in the city of Toronto. The complaint of the hon. member was that the men engaged by the contractor to do the work were receiving \$16 for a fifty hour week. I have gone into this question and I have some information before me bearing upon it. The information I have been able to gather is as follows:

|                           | Average working hours per week |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 men at \$16 per week..  | 50 hrs. 57 minutes             |
| 7 men at \$17 per week..  | 56 hrs. 56 minutes             |
| 11 men at \$18 per week.. | 63 hrs.                        |
| 1 man at \$19 per week..  | 63 hrs.                        |
| 1 man at \$20 per week..  | 63 hrs.                        |
| 11 men at \$20 per week.. | 55 hrs. 15 minutes             |
| 2 men at \$20 per week..  | 42 hrs. 45 minutes             |
| 2 men at \$19 per week..  | 56 hrs. 8 minutes              |
| 1 man at \$20 per week..  | 56 hrs. 8 minutes              |

The statement contains the further information that the average wage per man per week is \$18.45, while the average length of time worked by each man per week is 57 hours and

[Mr. Vernet.]

4 minutes. The fair wage clause in the contract issued within the last two or three months reads as follows:

The said contractor agrees that for the purpose of this contract ten hours shall constitute a full day's work for a courier, and further agrees that the remuneration paid by him to his couriers shall be approximately the same as that paid by mercantile houses and other concerns to their drivers for similar services, and to provide time books approved by the postmaster in which the couriers are to record the hours worked each day in connection with this contract; and the contractor agrees further to produce these time books for inspection when requested to do so by the postmaster. A fine of five dollars will be imposed upon the contractor for failure in every instance to comply with this clause of the agreement.

This contract has been in operation for four years or more. At the present time we are calling for new tenders for this work, as the contractor felt that under the old contract he was not getting sufficient pay. The contract is now being put up for tender with new conditions in the fair wage and hour clauses. Instead of a ten hour day the new contract calls for an eight hour day and a forty-four hour week. Under the new contract cities having similar delivery contracts to that of the