

whilst I also bear tribute to the officials whose salaries have been increased, I can not, however, help thinking that something should be done for another class of civil servants. On different occasions, since the beginning of this Parliament in 1911, the question of increasing the salaries of the lower officials has been mooted in this House. The House will remember that in 1913 the question came up before us and that a Bill was to be introduced by which the messengers, letter carriers and third class officials of the Civil Service were to have their salaries increased. I understand that with the war breaking out and with the heavy expenditure entailed thereby, the Government have found it difficult, if not impossible, to implement the promise that was made then; but with the buoyant revenue and with the liberalities, the largesses, that have been made in favour of some, indeed of many of the higher officials, it seems to me that the Government should, not later than this session, increase the pittance which the messengers, charwomen, letter carriers, and, generally speaking, the third class officials in the various departments of the Government receive. I need not say that in the present high cost of living, it is simply impossible for the messengers, letter carriers and others to live. Not a day elapses that I do not receive letters and petitions disclosing a state of things which should not be continued if the Government can prevent it. With the present price of the necessities of life, the price of food, the price of clothing, it seems to me that the Government should not hesitate, and that at this session a Bill should be introduced to give to those poor civil servants the increases to which they are entitled. I hope that before the committee adjourns we shall have a declaration on the part of the Government of their policy on this subject."

The last to speak in the debate was Mr. W. F. Maclean, famous not only as an M.P. with ideas, but also as editor of the Toronto "World." He also spoke a word for the Service. Referring to Mr. Lemieux's remarks, he said:

"I have a great deal of sympathy with what the previous speaker has said about increasing the pay of the lower grades of the Civil Service, especially as regards making it operative in the case of the Outside Service as well as the Inside Service. I believe that none are more worthy of recognition than the letter carriers and the carriers on the rural mail routes throughout the country, and now that the Minister of Finance has somewhat loosened the bag in connection with his own department I hope that his generosity will extend to the other depart-

ments, with a view particularly to increasing the salaries of the lower grade officials."



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G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.
Department of the Naval Service,
Ottawa, March 12, 1917.

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