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CAUSE OF UNREST IN POSTAL SERVICE

President of Postal Clerks' Association Sets Forth Situation And Appeals For Public Support.

The following statement from W. J. Cantwell, president of the Dominion Postal Clerks' association, sets forth the claim of the members of the postal service for increased pay: Postoffice employees, in common with all other wage-earners in this country, for the past eight years have been, by organized effort, attempting to impress upon the government the necessity of paying them a living wage, and it is the purpose of this statement to place before the general public, as briefly, concisely and dispassionately as possible, a summary of the efforts put forth by the Dominion Postal Clerks' association, in conjunction with other civil service organizations in this direction, and to show how fruitless these efforts have been.

Postal employees, during this period, have watched with intelligent interest the improvement that has been brought about in living conditions of their fellow citizens in other walks of life, and are not unmindful of the fact that this improvement has been largely, if not entirely, the result of organized effort. The Dominion Postal Clerks' association, with a proper conception of what must follow any well organized interruption of postal facilities, feels that it should not be necessary to use extreme methods, and have hitherto been resorted to to obtain relief, but feel nevertheless that they have certain obligations which they owe their families that can no longer be disregarded or set aside, and which must be respected by their employers, who are the people of this country, to whom this appeal is addressed.

The government, the recognized directors of the country, has, for some reason that we cannot understand, failed to apply the remedy. We feel, therefore, that the business men and the public generally, if the facts are placed before them, will bring pressure to bear as will persuade the government to pay its postal clerks sufficient remuneration to provide their families with the necessities of life and save them from the humiliation which they are at present enduring. It is not pleasant to realize that the postal clerks in other spheres of life, performing in many instances duties that require a lower standard of intelligence, and less education, are being paid much higher salaries.

Postal clerks specialize in what is regarded as a technical clerical system, and are not only required to qualify for appointment to the service by an educational test, but are compelled to maintain their efficiency by passing yearly examinations and distribution. Failure to pass these examinations results in the forfeiture of annual increases in salary. As a consequence inefficiency carries with it its own penalty.

Remuneration of Postal Clerks. Employers of labor, who have survived the past eight years, realize to what extent their outlay for wages has increased for that period, and the following figures are sufficiently eloquent not to require argument to convince them that employment in the postal service of Canada has ceased to hold out inducements to the type of individual which has made it the most efficient public utility in existence today. To what extent this efficiency is being impaired is best known to the officials and employees of the service, and is illustrated by the fact that in one large postoffice alone approximately five hundred employees severed their connection with the service to seek more lucrative employment elsewhere during the past twelve months. The reason is not far to seek, and is contained in the figures, which show the salaries hitherto paid by the government to postal clerks: First year, \$600; second year, \$700; third year, \$800; fourth year, \$900; fifth year, \$1,000.

Then, up till quite recently, a barrier was reached in the form of an academic test, which had been surmounted—no matter how efficient the standpoint—before further in-

TWICE TOLD TALES

News of Kingston

TEN YEARS AGO.

Councillor Rankin will introduce a by-law at the next session of the county council, which proposes that the county take over the Kingston-Storvington toll road.

Professor Adam Shortt, of Ottawa, will deliver a lecture to Queen's students this afternoon, outlining the advantages offered by a career in the civil service.

Count Tolstol, the great Russian writer, lies dying in a little railway station at Asnapova.

With President C. A. MacPherson in the chair, the Kingston Board of Trade passed a resolution against reciprocity, in trade between United States and Canada. The vote was unanimous.

Herbert Cook, a miller in the employ of the Kingston Milling Company, had his leg broken, when a cart which he was leading kicked him. He is doing nicely.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

The Board of Works decided at last night's meeting to recommend a yearly license fee of \$20 for milk and other peddlers.

H. Cunningham plans to extensively improve his yacht, the "Hustler," this winter. New running gear and hardwood finishings will be the first. Several young men are planning to start another curling club here this winter.

Captain Donnelly says that he is not quite sure of some of the rules of the city council, but that he will be there next year to learn them.

James Gunn says he would like to argue with any Toronto man on the relative merits of Queen's and Varsity in rugby.

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SHOE STORE

Respectively submitted,
WM. J. CANTWELL,
President Dominion Postal Clerks' Association of Canada.

—Adv.

A Man of Peace!

"I am a man of peace," said Dr. Edwards, M.P., at the cadets' banquet on Monday night, and there was a roar. "I do not know whether to take it as a mark of confidence or distrust," added the speaker after the laughter had subsided. "Oh, confidence, sure!" said Gen. Macdonell. "I took it that way," remarked the doctor, who went on and made an admirable address.

Westport Visitors

Westport, Nov. 15.—H. E. Whitcomb, Ottawa, has purchased the grocery business of H. C. McEwen & is now in possession. James Watertown, N.Y., spent the week-

end with Mr. and Mrs. James E. on Bedford street to Fred Hull, Chantry. William Arthur, of the Merchants Bank staff, Athens, spent the week-end in town. Mr. and Mrs. McLennan, Ogdensburg, N.Y., spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Speagle.