

PATHE PICTURES LTD.

From

A. Houllet
Dublin

To

P. T. Cummins, Esq.
Editor16th March 1913.

Please refer to

Dear Mr Cummins. Dick Thomas

Enclose some information received from the Civil Service General Council this morning regarding why they marched yesterday. Cause of the thing is an arbitrator was appointed by the Government to adjudicate

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on the claim and the
Government has declined
to honour the award of
their own arbitrator.

spotlights the financial
 distress of the taxpayer's
 representative the Minister
 for Finance.

Sincerely,
 R. A. H. H. H.

For nearly 30 years the staff associations in the Civil Service had been agitating for the establishment of conciliation and arbitration machinery to deal with problems and grievances affecting civil servants. In 1950 the Interparty Government agreed upon the scheme of conciliation and arbitration. The scheme operated for one year after which it was abrogated. When the present Government came into office the scheme was being revised, and after a year's negotiation with the Minister for Finance a new scheme was introduced. General D. McKenna, former Chief of Staff of the Irish Army, was appointed by the Government, in agreement with the staff associations, as Chairman of the Arbitration Board.

In November, the Arbitration Board heard a claim for a 20% increase in Civil Service pay. At the hearing, Mr. J. J. McElligott stated that the Minister for Finance felt no increase should be given to the civil servants because there was not any money in the Exchequer to meet the increase, and because teachers, army, guards, and local Government employees would also demand a similar increase. The total cost of conceding the claim would be £5½ million. He also stated that the limit of taxable capacity had been reached and that Budget tax estimates would not be realised.

The Report was submitted to the Government on the 18th of November, and was under consideration for three months. At the end of that period the Minister published the report which gave an increase of 12½% on the first £200 of salary and 5% after that. For about 80% of the Civil Service this would mean an increase of about 12/6 per week. The Minister for Finance announced in the Dail that the Government did not intend to pay anything on foot of the award from the date on which it was to operate - 1st November, 1952 - until the 1st April, 1953, and the Government deferred a decision as

to whether they would implement the award to any extent until when they were framing the Budget.

After this announcement representatives of the staff associations met the Taoiseach, Mr. De Valera, and the Minister for Finance, Mr. McEntee. At that meeting they tried to persuade the Government to pay what was due under the award immediately, but Mr. De Valera would not agree to do so.

There are over 40,000 persons employed in the Civil Service. The total approximate cost per annum is £13,000,000. and the amount of money necessary to meet the increase per year would be £1,000,000.

To protest against the Government's attitude towards the Arbitration award the Civil Service General Council Staff Panel - the body representing all the staff associations who are adversely affected by the Government's unfavourable decision - have organised a protest meeting and public parade for Sunday, 15th March. The large bodies taking part in it are the Post Office Workers' Union, Irish Post Office Engineering Union, Civil Service Clerical Association, Revenue Services, Civil Service Alliance, Federation of Government Employees, Post Office Clerical Association.

In addition other groups of employees have shown their support for the Civil Service by taking part in the parade, notably the Teachers, Women Workers' Union and Amalgamated Transport Workers' Union.

The parade embraces civil servants of all grades - Postmen, Messengers, Telephonists, Post Office Engineers, Typists, Clerical ~~xx~~ Officers, Prison Officers, Revenue Services, Executive Officers and Higher Executive Officers - the entire Civil Service within the scope of conciliation and arbitration.