

OFFICERS WITH ARMED SERVICES, OR ON SPECIAL LEAVE

As at the 31st March there were only four Post Office employees still with the Armed Services. Five others have not yet resumed duty owing to injury or protracted illness contracted while serving with the Forces. There are also 18 returned servicemen absent on special leave without pay who are trying other forms of employment.

POST AND TELEGRAPH STAFF TRIBUNAL

GENERAL INCREASE IN SALARIES

The Post and Telegraph Staff Tribunal sat in December, 1948, and again in February, 1949, under the chairmanship of Judge W. F. Stilwell, to consider wage and salary claims of Post Office employees.

The Tribunal announced its decisions on the 9th March, 1949, and these provided, with some exceptions, for the following general wage increases for all departmental employees, permanent and temporary:—

- (1) £22 if paid on an annual basis.
- (2) 2½d. an hour if paid on an hourly basis.
- (3) 8s. 4d. a week if paid on a weekly basis.

The exceptions were those employees to whom lesser increases were granted as follows:—

- (a) Employees whose salaries did not exceed £185 per annum: an increase of £10 per annum.
- (b) Employees whose salaries exceeded £185 per annum but did not exceed £275 per annum: an increase of £15 per annum.
- (c) Temporary employees receiving hourly or weekly rates of pay, which when computed on an annual basis fell within the salary ranges set out in (a) and (b): an increase of either 1d. or 1½d. an hour or 3s. 4d. or 5s. a week as the case might be.
- (d) Temporary female office cleaners: a *pro rata* weekly increase, based on a rate of 2½d. an hour, in accordance with the number of hours worked of the full working-week of forty hours.

The increased rates were approved by Government and operated from the 1st July, 1948.

PROMOTIONS

Further steps were taken during the year to implement more fully the Department's improved grading set-up, and arising from the action taken additional promotions were arranged.

The Department has followed its traditional practice of obtaining, in the main, its First Division staff by promotion from the Second Division. During the year some 343 such promotions were made. In addition, some cadets were recruited direct from secondary schools.

APPEAL BOARD

Two sittings of the Appeal Board were held during the year, one in April-May and the other in October-December. At the two sittings 802 appeals lodged by 226 appellants were adjudicated upon, and the following decisions made: allowed, 21; allowed by consent, 19; withdrawn, 220; did not lie, 12; disallowed, 530.

In fourteen of the disallowed appeals the Board recommended that increased grading should be granted by the Department.