

1st April, 1932: All salaries and allowances reduced, as under, by the National Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1932:—

(a) Where the rate of salary did not exceed £225 or its equivalent, 5 per cent.:

(b) Where the rate of salary exceeded £225 but did not exceed £720 or its equivalent, 10 per cent.:

(c) Where the rate exceeded £720 or its equivalent, 12½ per cent.

1st April, 1934: All salaries and allowances increased by 5 per cent. on the passing of the Finance Act (No. 2), 1934.

1st August, 1935: All salaries and allowances increased by 7½ per cent. on the passing of the Finance Act, 1935.

1st July, 1936: Salaries and allowances restored to the rates in force on 31st March, 1931, by the Finance Act, 1936.

From the above it will be seen the Public Service salaries were reduced by from 14½ to 21¼ per cent. on the rates in force at 31st March, 1931, and that more than five years passed before these reductions were restored. From the following table it will be seen that all clerical scales are still below the rates in force in 1920 and 1921—i.e., the whole of the reductions made in terms of the Public Expenditure Adjustment Act, 1921–22, have never been restored. The scale for the professional division is very little dissimilar.

The present cost-of-living figures are, however, below the 1920 level.

Clerical Division.

Class.	1913, Maximum.	1919, Maximum.	1920, Maximum.	1922 (January), Maximum.	1922 (July), Maximum.	1924, Maximum.	1931, Maximum.	1932, Maximum.	1934, Maximum.	1935 (August), Maximum.	1936 (July), Maximum.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
VII ..	220	270	320	305	295	295	265	239	251	270	295
VI ..	260	300	350	330	320	335	301	271	285	306	335
V ..	315	350	400	380	370	380	342	308	323	347	380
IV ..	370	400	450	430	420	425	382	344	361	389	425
III ..	425	450	500	480	470	470	423	381	400	430	470
II ..	475	500	550	525	515	515	463	417	438	471	515
I ..	600	600	650	625	615	615	553	498	523	562	615
C, Special	..	750	800	775	765	765	688	619	651	699	765

SALARIES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

During recent years from time to time attention has been drawn to the fact that salaries of the higher clerical and professional officers are in the opinion of the Commissioners inadequate. In the professional division salaries beyond £715 per annum, and in the clerical division salaries exceeding £765 per annum, require parliamentary appropriation before they can be paid. From the commencement of the depression it has been practically impossible to secure appropriation for increases in salary for officers coming within the overscale classes. The result of this has been that the relative salary status of various positions has been disturbed. Salaries up to £715 or £765, according to the Division, have in some cases increased without a corresponding increase to those receiving over these amounts. Regrading is much overdue to the officers in these latter classes.

Salaries of administrative officers are not determined by the Commissioners, such salaries being subject to provision in the annual estimates of Departments and authorization by Parliament. Remarks made regarding the salaries of the higher clerical and professional officers apply with at least equal force to the salaries of administrative officers.

In this connection we would call attention to the following extract from the 1933 report:—

The labourer is worthy of his hire, and I feel constrained to express the opinion that the salaries paid, especially to the higher officers, are woefully inadequate. These men have won their positions by preparation, industry, ability, and grit, and while they are loyally accepting the position as it exists at present with a feeling of stoicism, this may give way to an all-round pessimism with resultant loss of morale and efficiency, unless they may reasonably hope for some improvement in the near future.