

Refund of Salary paid to a Letter Carrier at Toronto.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, June 15, 1898.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, inclosing a deposit receipt for \$91.88, being a refund of salary made by Mr. W. A. Goad, a letter carrier at Toronto post office.

It appears from your letter that this refund was made because Mr. Goad was absent from duty from July 9 to September 4, 1897; but no explanation is given for having paid his regular salary in due order, nor is there any reference to his absence on the pay-lists for the months covering the period in question, which have been sent to this office for audit, and which are certified as follows by the postmaster:—"I certify that the service for which payment is asked has been performed, and the salaries charged are according to statute."

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

The Deputy Postmaster General.

J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

POST OFFICE DEPT., OTTAWA, July 6, 1898.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 15th ultimo, on the subject of the refund of \$91.88 by W. A. Goad, letter carrier, of Toronto, and to say that leave of absence was granted Mr. Goad without pay. Some time later it was discovered that Mr. Goad had been paid during the time he was absent from duty. The postmaster at Toronto was communicated with, requesting that the \$91.88, which had been illegally paid Mr. Goad be refunded. This was done, and the money deposited by the accountant to the credit of the Receiver General.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Auditor General.

R. M. COULTER, D.P.G.

Leave of Absence to Temporary Employee.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, May 12, 1898.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that I have received an Order in Council of the 3rd instant, directing that Mr. F. G. Gray, who has been employed as a temporary clerk in the inside service of the Post Office Department since October 17, 1892, at a salary of \$400 a year, be granted leave of absence from July 1 to September 1, 1898, at which latter date his resignation as such clerk shall be accepted by the department.

I call your attention to this matter because, in my opinion, it is not legal to grant the leave of absence contemplated by the Order in Council referred to.

Under section 47 of the Civil Service Act, as amended by 58-59 Victoria, chapter 15, the Governor in Council may authorize the employment of such number of temporary clerks, &c., as is shown to be necessary on account of temporary pressure of work or other cause in any department, and that the clerks so appointed may be continued in such employment so long as the pressure of work remains, but no temporary employment shall give any person so employed any claim to further temporary employment.

If, then, the department is in a position to dispense with the services of Mr. Gray on July 1, it has no authority to pay him for a period beyond that date, as the pressure of work which necessitated his employment must have ceased to exist, or has been met by another appointment.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Deputy Postmaster General.

J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

Travel of Superintendents of Railway Mail Service.

POST OFFICE DEPT., OTTAWA, May 5, 1898.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the question as to whether the Superintendents of Railway Mail Service should be paid mileage or actual expenses when absent on duty from headquarters, and I should be pleased to have your ruling on the matter.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Auditor General.

R. M. COULTER, D.P.G.