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Some Postal Deficiencies.

NOTWITHSTANDING the improvements made by Sir William Mulock and his very efficient deputy, Mr. Coulter, the Canadian postal service is far behind Germany and other countries. One of the particular instances of the backwardness and inefficiency of the Canadian postal service in some cases, is furnished by the post office of the Capital itself. The Ottawa post office is one of the most important in the Dominion, in as much as, in addition to the mailing rights of a population numbering fully 70,000, it has to handle an enormous mass of matter sent out by various departments of government and the very bulky and extensive parcels sent from the Central Experimental Farm. In addition there is the receipt of all letters and material addressed to the various departments of government, including the Geological Survey and the Experimental Farm. Recently additions have been made to this burden by the creation of the Railway Commission an

the National Transcontinental Railway Commission. It would startle the average slow going European to be told that there is no certain way of buying a postage stamp in the city of Ottawa after 6 o'clock in the evening, although numerous mails go out after that hour. It is left to the individual enterprise of a odd drug store or messenger service to supply stamps after the single vendor of stamps at the post office chooses to close the wicket. If a drug store or bookseller or any other person received a license to sell postage stamps—and why in the name of common sense a license should be required is a problem—there is no rule or regulation requiring that person not to run out of stamps and as a matter of fact in most cases an application for stamps is met with the reply that they are out of them. The frequent delays in distributing late mail that comes in is due no doubt to an overworked and undermanned staff.

— The entrance into the Ottawa post office