

Supply—Post Office

opportunity with regard to service clubs throughout the country, where the postmaster, the district supervisor or some other official could show one of the many films the department has depicting the great work of the Post Office Department and what a wonderful organization it is. In other words, I think the Post Office Department is keeping its light under a bushel. The service clubs throughout the country would be most appreciative of having such a film shown to them.

There is one other small matter, Mr. Chairman, which is not altogether a problem of the Post Office Department. As hon. members know, on certain days of each month pension cheques, family allowance cheques and other social service cheques are mailed throughout Canada. They arrive on certain days as regular as can be. These cheques are being stolen at an alarming rate. The people who steal them know the particular day they will arrive and watch for them. I am getting a number of complaints in this connection. In many cases people have told me that the postman is not putting the cheques right into the mailbox. This is occurring mostly in apartment houses. As I say, this theft is growing considerably and I hope the department will take every step possible to ensure the safe receipt of these cheques.

In connection with new stamps I have only one request to make of the Postmaster General. I hope he will give serious consideration to bringing out a new stamp in honour of a great Canadian soldier and physician. I refer to Colonel John McCrae, who was the author of that immortal poem "In Flanders fields". This poem is known and read throughout Canada and all over the world. On November 11 there is hardly an armistice celebration at which this wonderful poem is not referred to. If ever a Canadian was worthy of such a commemorative stamp, I believe it would be Colonel John McCrae.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that our own post office in Guelph is badly in need of a physical overhaul. We have a wonderful staff there who give great co-operation, but the building needs to be remodelled. There should be more mail boxes and a night lobby so that people can get their mail at any time of the day. Renovation of the whole main floor is badly needed, and I hope that this will be taken care of by the Department of Public Works in co-operation with the post office.

Mr. Webb: Mr. Chairman, my remarks in regard to the Post Office Department will be very brief. I must say at the outset that I

was impressed and pleased with the remarks of the Postmaster General at the commencement of this debate. At times in the past I have been a little critical of the department, and I believe I have been justified in my criticisms. At this time there are only two or three matters I want to bring to the attention of the Postmaster General.

First of all, it has been rumoured that the method of calling for contracts to supply rural delivery is going to be changed. I do not know what the proposed new method will be, but I do want to say that I have always advocated that the department should set a permanent or yearly rate over the term of the contract for rural and urban delivery. I feel there are many mail carriers today operating rural routes at a loss. If a rate was set by the department of so much a mile for rural delivery and so much a mile for urban delivery, each and every one on this job would be treated fairly.

Another point I want to bring to the attention of the Postmaster General is that some time ago contracts were called for different positions and duties in the riding I have the honour to represent. One of the officers in the minister's own party organization has been calling on the people who wrote civil service examinations, after having been notified who was going to receive these appointments, and advising them that the civil service examination has nothing to do with the appointment, that it is strictly a political appointment. I know the Postmaster General would not want this practice to continue.

Another matter I want to draw to the minister's attention is that I want him to see to it that ample supplies of stamps bearing the Queen's head are available at post offices. I have had two complaints recently, not from my own riding but from the Napanee area, that people were told that stamps bearing a picture of the Queen's head are not available.

In conclusion I should like to congratulate the Postmaster General on what he is trying to do. I am sure that all members have great confidence in him, and I know that many of the shemozzles we have had in the past would not have occurred had the present Postmaster General held this position. In closing I want to congratulate him on all he is doing.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairman, at this time when we are considering the main post office estimates I should like to congratulate the Postmaster General on his businesslike approach in submitting the estimates of his department, particularly as shown in the