

Edmonton.

News has been received in the office of the death in action of Corporal A. W. Britton, C.M.R. Britton, who prior to his enlistment was employed in the Money Order Department, enlisted some two years ago. Only last month we received a snapshot of him in full possession of health and vigor. How bitter and sudden are the changes of fortune in this present war. The sincere sympathies of the whole office will go out towards Mrs. Britton in her bereavement.

The vacation season is about to commence with us. Relief men are due to arrive (we merely said due) and presently those agreeable little breaks in our official existence will be realized, when for the space of a week or so one can consider oneself divorced from anything suggestive of mail matter and its byproducts, dust, smell and the like.

We feel it to be our religious and bounden duty to firmly contradict one or two rumors which are strongly prevalent in the office these days. The following absolutely lack foundation:

That the branch secretary is taking anti-phon to reduce his bulk.

That a certain minute member of the letter dispatch has sworn off "ham and eggs" for 48 hours.

That the clerk in charge of the City Sortation has agreed to double his subscription to the Patriotic Fund.

That all non-subscribers to the above Fund have declined to accept the much talked of bonus, on the grounds of conscience.

That the General Delivery Department is grossly over-manned, and that the local correspondent of the "Postal Journal" is in full possession of all his faculties all the time.

HERE AND THERE.

By the Organizing Secretary.

The sordid conditions of employment of the clerks in semi-staff offices have been obviously responsible for the absence of enthusiasm, lack of interest on the part of a number of these clerks in matters pertaining to their interest and that of the Association. It is not to be wondered at that such apathy exists, since the rates of pay of this class of postal employees have practically remained unchanged for a lengthy period, whilst the living or subsisting expenses have more than steadily increased. It is to be regretted that the Department, from the viewpoint of efficiency, has not seen its way clear to offer more encouragement and hope to this branch of the Service. But let these men and women take heart. The Association is using its best efforts to eradicate the evils indicated. They should remain firm in their

unity with the Association, and their loyalty and patience will be duly rewarded—not in the hereafter—but in the herenow. The question of raising the status of semi-staff office clerks to a point whereat there will be incentive for such clerks to remain in the service seems to be one of the several Civil Service questions that need to be brought to the attention of the public for their enlightenment and education. The manner by which public servants seek to enlighten and educate the public is, of course, of paramount importance. Haphazard, spasmodic and irregularly directed methods will produce little or no good, however important the subject in point may be. It is with the postal clerks as with other participating in the world's work, only by co-operation, organization and education will a purpose for the good of those concerned be accomplished. The idea of bringing this semi-staff office matter to the attention of the members of parliament and the boards of trade throughout the country was an excellent one. This plan which is now in operation and which is being elaborated upon is already having good effect, and the publicity given it will in all probability bring the public to the stern realization of the fact that improved conditions of employment of the postal clerks and civil servants generally mean a better public service.

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Don't be sending in resolutions for convention at the last moment. Each and every branch member should put on his or her studying cap for a few days for the purpose of bringing before the next branch meeting questions that are likely to form important material for a convention resolution.

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The Association is progressing very well. Its usefulness is being noticed more. But the success of the Association cannot be measured only by the benefits that it is able to get for the members. The numerical strength is a big asset to success. Branches should start a membership campaign.

FROM AFLOAT.

From Senior Medical Officer,
H.M. Hospital Ship, 'Garth Castle.'

Fleet Surgeon Austen, on behalf of the Staff, sick and wounded, who may be patients in H.M.H.S. "Garth Castle," begs to offer the Canadian Red Cross Society very sincere thanks for the large consignment of First Aid gifts and chocolate.