

Hon. J. Gray Turgeon: I should like to say a word or two, and I am anxious to do it before the honourable senator for Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) rises to speak—as I hope and believe he will.

I am in entire agreement with the excellent argument made by the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), to the effect that this proposed legislation be adopted, and that a study be made of the various causes of the losses sustained by the department, and what might be done to remedy these conditions. My suggestion is that the Committee on Finance, which under the chairmanship of the honourable senator from Churchill has done exceptionally fine work these last few years, should inquire into the matter of losses and profits and how they are affected by postal legislation and regulations of various kinds. I agree with the Leader of the Government that we should accept this bill and have it passed at once; and that the Finance Committee, of which I have the honour to be a member, should then take up the matters I have mentioned and during this session make recommendations which might be the basis of amendments to be introduced another session.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: May I ask the honourable senator from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) if he is willing to pay the five cents' postage?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: I would have to, whether willingly or not.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The honourable senator knows that, if the rate goes up to five cents it will never come down.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: It could come down if a Senate committee, after careful study, so recommended. I cannot say that such a recommendation would be made.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: That kind of thing has never happened yet.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: It seems to me that, if such a recommendation were made, action on that line would probably be taken.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Honourable senators, what I was about to observe—and I think I am out of order—is that the suggestion of the honourable senator from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) could not very well be acted upon until the committee received an instruction from this house to that effect. Of course, if the house should direct the committee to inquire into this subject, I have no doubt that the committee would do its best to investigate the matter.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: The honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), as chairman of the committee, might make a motion.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: As I said, I think I am out of order, and I am not going to discuss this matter further, other than to say this, that the great bulk of the second-class mail consists not of newspapers but of mail-order catalogues of all kinds from all sorts of places.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: And the Sunday papers.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I have only one observation to make in connection with this matter. Unfortunately I could not attend the meeting of the committee; and I have no desire to take part in the general discussion. I would like, however, to compliment the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) upon his very forcible and logical address. On only one point would I take issue with him, and that is with regard to the five-day week. I cannot agree with him in attributing the losses or any part of the losses of the Post Office Department to the five-day week.

Hon. Mr. Haig: The honourable gentleman misunderstood me. I said the Deputy Postmaster General claimed that in order to handle the mail in a five-day week a larger staff would be required, resulting in increased wage costs.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: That has nothing to do with losses in the Post Office Department, for the department has to pay the going rate of wages, whatever they may be, and maintain the general standard of living within each community. I take issue with those who blame the wage question for business losses and suggest that business interests would be advanced if men worked longer hours and accepted lower wages. Of course they would. Wouldn't it be a fine thing for business if wages were cut out altogether? But, as the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) has said, we must be realistic. The five-day week is now the established custom of industry across Canada, and is the very principle upon which municipal governments are operating. Civic employees in Toronto and Hamilton, for example, are working a five-day week.

Hon. Mr. Horner: That is not the case in the dairy industry.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Perhaps not, but according to my honourable friend from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner) the dairy industry is depressed, and I hope it is not to be accepted as the guiding industry of this dominion. Employees of our provincial governments are also working the five-day week, which has become the general custom for all federal civil servants with the exception of the Post Office employees. The manner in which