

I am not making these statements; they are made by the writer of this letter to the Postmaster General. But what I would like to find out is the origin of the removal of that post office. It had been there for ten years, had been placed there by a former Liberal government; when the lease expired during our term of office it was renewed because all the people in the community wanted it to remain there, and therefore I, as representative of that part of the city of Toronto, would under no circumstances have asked for its removal. I should like to be informed how this removal came about which has caused so much annoyance in that whole community. West on St. Clair avenue are a great number of stores; in fact the whole street on both sides west of Oakwood avenue, apart from school yards, consists of business premises, and all these people have to go some five hundred feet or more further to the east and across the intersecting car lines which are referred to in the letter from which I have read.

When I came back, I received this letter, which had been sent to me on May 27 by the Minister of Public Works:

I have yours of the 29th ultimo, relative to the surrender of premises leased from Mr. Calderone at the corner of Saint Clair and Appleton avenues, Toronto, and, in reply, may say that the request for larger accommodation for postal station "L" came from the Post Office Department as early as February of this year, when representations were made that, in view of the growth of that portion of the city of Toronto which this postal station serves, additional accommodation is necessary and that property known as 937, 937A and 939 St. Clair avenue west, just east of Oakwood, had been looked over by the district director of postal services, who reported that the proposal would mean a total increase over all of approximately 1,200 square feet and an increase on the main working floor of approximately 1,500 square feet.

When the former lease was renewed during our term of office, the owners of the building wrote to the Minister of Public Works at that time intimating that if more space were required they would be happy to let the Post Office Department have a store in the same building facing on St. Clair avenue, which apparently the department did not require when it was under the direction of the former Liberal administration.

In view of the splendid location of the former post office, its admirable lighting facilities, with three outside walls, the fact that it had been specially built to suit the Post Office Department and that there was more space available in the store, forty feet by eighteen, in the same building, immediately in front of the former post office, I cannot for the life of me understand why the change

was made, and I should like to have some information from the minister. Certainly there are few in that community who believe that the purpose was to obtain more space, because, while I have no comment to make upon the new building, I am bound to say that if it has any more space it has but little in excess of the old building, and it has only two outside walls, besides being east of Oakwood avenue. Moreover, it is more difficult to reach than was the former building, not being quite so accessible to a large number of people who use that post office.

As a representative of part of that whole district, I feel that I should have been consulted, although I am on the opposite side of politics. I would not for a moment believe that there was any politics in it, and if there were no politics I suggest that I should have been asked something about the matter when the change was made, as to whether it was satisfactory or not. Maybe that is not the custom of the Post Office Department, but it certainly should be. The representative of the riding should be asked something about such changes. It was during the former government's term of office that postal branches were up for renewal in my community, and I never inquired in those days whether a man was Liberal or Conservative, because the post office serves the whole community irrespective of politics and it should be beyond anything like that.

That is about all I have to say with respect to that point, and if the acting Postmaster General cannot give me information as to the real story behind the change that was made, when the Postmaster General comes in I may have something further to say to him which will be of interest. At the moment, however, I shall leave the matter where it stands.

Mr. EULER: Does my hon. friend wish me to give a reply now or does he prefer to wait until the Postmaster General is here?

Mr. MacNICOL: Can the acting Postmaster General give the reply?

Mr. EULER: I have information which I hope will be satisfactory.

Mr. MacNICOL: I shall be glad to have it.

Mr. EULER: I do not wish to read all the correspondence unless it is asked for. Apparently the first incident in connection with the matter is a letter written on February 23 by the chief superintendent of post office service addressed to the chief architect of the Department of Public Works, Ottawa. He makes reference to these quarters, but the thing that is most relevant is a statement