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had as Controller of the Postal Stores that I am not competent to give an order? I have been there thirty-six years, and have had a clean sheet during that time. There has never been a breath of scandal in connection with my position. I have dealt with everybody and protected the minister and protected the friends of the Government, and have had to be a sort of acrobat and I cannot now buy a typewriter without going to the Deputy Minister, and when the scandals were on with the Printing Bureau, I was the only one who could show a clean sheet. The deputy said, "We are going to be inspected." And I said, "Go home and put your head down on the pillow and sleep, and have no hesitation. Do not be uneasy." He said, "We are going to be inspected," and I said, "That is just exactly what we want, we want to be investigated," and when they came to be investigated the Post Office was the only one which was clear, and I was the only one who had a historic—

The CHAIRMAN: We have not time to go into that.

WITNESS: There you are. I am just giving you the point of my experience. I do say that that is the record, and you have the means of finding out that what I am saying is true.

By the Chairman:

Q. The point you wish to make is decentralization of authority?—A. Yes, put it something on the basis of Washington. They have a territory as large as ours.

The committee adjourned.

WALTER TODD, Secretary,
Civil Service Inquiry Committee,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

OTTAWA, June 17, 1919.

DEAR MR. TODD,—When my evidence was yesterday broken off by the adjournment of the committee for luncheon, I had not quite completed what I had in mind to say relative to decrease in expenditure and increase in efficiency in connection with Postal Stores, which would have been generally something along the following lines,—

Before the division of the Postal Stores Branch, out of which the Purchasing Agent's Branch was created, January, 1918, the staff numbered 81, since which time the duties performed by the two branches have been decreased by a change in system whereby all mail bags for repair, instead of being sent into Ottawa for the purpose, are now despatched direct to the penitentiaries in different provinces, as a result of which at least four employees have been relieved of their regular work in connection therewith, notwithstanding which the staffs of the combined branches now number 95,—with four unfilled vacancies in the Postal Stores Branch.

Were the Purchasing Agent and his staff transferred to the Purchasing Board (to which they exclusively relate) and the duties in connection with stocking and distributing of all articles of Postal Stores restored as before the change to the Postal Stores Branch, where it properly belongs, it would conduce to increased efficiency, a reduced staff and less expense.

As a result of the division of the Postal Stores Branch, as above indicated, there are now two separate branches with two distinct heads (both class A men), and two office organizations where one would be sufficient and which amply sufficed for the previous 36½ years under the Controller of Postal Stores, and this has given rise to considerable duplication of work and to unnecessary new work also, which could be dispensed with were the change back again to the original office establishment, as above indicated, carried into effect.

Sincerely yours,

SIDNEY SMITH,

Controller of Postal Stores.

[Mr. Sidney Smith.]