

*Supply—Post Office*

is the revenue return. I think it is fair to point out that we have two railways serving that point, since both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific come into that area. A great deal of floor space is required, particularly during the Christmas rush when there is an excess of mail, to do the sorting at that post office.

I suggest to the minister that since the revenue of the office is getting up to the point where it would be proper to build a new office, he should give consideration to the building of an adequate office for that point.

I know that some attempt has been made to get somebody locally to build that post office. After taking into consideration the revenue return which a person would get from renting a building with the necessary space you would hardly expect a local person to build it. I know officials in that town have tried to find a satisfactory location and accommodation, but I am suggesting to the minister that the people in that area would be very happy if he could see fit to do something about that problem. I suggest that what is needed is a new post office.

I should like, Mr. Chairman, to give credit to the government for undertaking some of the representations I have made in the past, and I hope the ones I am making this evening will be as successful as some I have made in the past. I think I have already thanked the department—if I have not I wish to do so now—for the construction of the fine post office at Kipling. Hon. members will realize that on several occasions since 1953 I advocated that building, and I am very happy that the former minister recommended to the Department of Public Works that this post office be built. I wish to thank the government for that.

I also wish to thank the government for building a post office in what has now become the ninth city in Saskatchewan. I speak, of course, of Estevan, one of the finest little cities in southeastern Saskatchewan, which was incorporated on the first of this month. It is true the government is building a new post office there. Mr. Cote, the former postmaster general, was very kind and generous when he wrote me, after I made my representations in this house on the need for a federal building there, to say that he was recommending that it be built. I am very well pleased with that. I think it will be opened this spring or summer, and it will certainly be a fine asset to that city.

However, I wish to point out to the government that there are some things in connection with that building about which we are not happy in Estevan. I think the government are to be severely scored for their actions in connection with that building. In

the town of Estevan we have a crown corporation producing some of the finest brick produced by a brick plant anywhere in Canada. I fail to see why the Department of Public Works had to go outside that city to get brick, why they had to import it from outside the province in order to erect that building. I am convinced that not one contractor, local or otherwise, could say that building would not have been more beautiful had the government seen fit to use Estevan brick.

I do not know the reason they did not. I do not know whether or not it was political, but we just do not like it. While we are happy to get the building, as I say, we certainly think consideration should have been given to using the fine brick produced in our own plant at Estevan. Today that brick is being shipped to all parts of Canada and, of course, beautiful buildings are being erected with it.

I do not think there is anything more I wish to say at this time, Mr. Chairman, but I do feel that perhaps at this late date, if the Post Office Department does not intend to use some of this revenue to increase services, particularly on rural routes, and give finer service, it would be well to give consideration to reducing the postal rates in this country.

**Mr. Johnson (Kindersley):** Mr. Chairman, before this item passes there are a few observations I should like to make in connection with the general operation of the Post Office Department as it affects the rural communities.

As hon. members are aware, residents in rural communities gained very little advantage from the increase in postal rates. The principal direction of their mail is to the larger cities within the provinces, and it must travel there by rail or bus. They get advantage of the speedy service by air only if their mail happens to be going to a distant point in eastern or western Canada. It is apparent, then, that they have contributed in large measure to the \$30 million surplus which the minister has reported for the Post Office Department without gaining any benefit, or a very limited benefit from those increased rates. My observation, then, is that the minister should surely give increased consideration to providing better mail facilities for those rural towns and communities.

I have heard hon. members from other parts of Canada request twice a day mail delivery service. This simply means that the postman is asked to deliver the mail on your doorstep twice a day rather than the once a day service that normally applies. In the case of the rural farmers it is not a matter of the mail being delivered to his