

*Supply—Post Office*

that possibly at the end of the next fiscal year there will be a deficit of some \$37 million in his department. Or was that for 1964?

**Mr. Nicholson:** It will be less than that—about \$30 million.

**Mr. McBain:** We are pleased to hear that. We know that other departments of government have continually showed a deficit. I am thinking of the Department of Finance. I am wondering whether in the report the minister gave us today he is endeavouring to change some of the accounting system of the Post Office Department in order to shift some of the financial responsibility from the shoulders of the Minister of Finance, and whether other departments will be doing the same thing, so that eventually the Minister of Finance will not have quite as large a deficit in his budget as is anticipated at this time.

The minister dealt at some length with a resolution that was before the house some months ago in respect of increasing the local delivery mail rate from 4 to 5 cents. Of course we on this side of the chamber are opposed to the increase and hope he will hold back this piece of legislation or drop it until we have an opportunity to review the increases that are already in effect in the department. I note also in the report that five communities were given letter carrier service, namely Summerside, Prince Edward Island; Oromocto, New Brunswick; Thornhill, Ontario; Ste. Rose, Quebec; and Hawkesbury, Ontario. I hope that before the minister's estimates pass he will be able to give us the number and names of communities that have received letter carrier service since March 31, 1963.

Speaking of my own riding of Elgin, I hope the minister will soon be in a position to give favourable consideration to the town of Aylmer receiving letter carrier service. I believe the town of Aylmer does not at the present time meet the requirement of 2,500 householders, but they have used all the space available for installing letter boxes within the limits of the post office building and it seems to me some modification should be made of the present requirement so that municipalities which may not have 2,500 householders may obtain letter carrier service. I imagine that many of these people do not at the present time go to the post office every day, and in this type of community I think the people would be satisfied if a nominal service were inaugurated that would

[Mr. McBain.]

give them a house-to-house mail service at least three times a week.

There are many other problems that I wish to raise, Mr. Chairman, and they are mainly concerned with my own riding of Elgin. However, some of my colleagues have an appointment with representatives of Air Canada at a later time today and I will make my remarks very brief to enable them to make their comments before leaving the chamber. I do hope the minister will make some comment on the number of stamps that have been issued depicting certain floral designs and provincial emblems. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe one has already been issued.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Three.

**Mr. McBain:** I notice that the former postmaster general mentioned this matter in his report last year. As reported at page 6071 of *Hansard* for December 18, last, he said:

I also intend to give a brand new look to Canadian postage stamps and, in the future, Canadians can look for brighter and more interesting stamps as the department produces three and perhaps four colour stamps by a combination of steel engraving and offset lithography as compared to the customary one or two colour designs. Red will be mostly used to make them more attractive.

I wonder if they were thinking of the three red maple leaves at that time. The former minister went on to say:

We plan to begin a series of coloured stamps showing the various provincial floral emblems. We have under way what I think are attractive stamps on the themes of world peace and Canadian unity, and also stamps to commemorate the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences of 1864 which led to confederation. We have decided, for next year, to issue a special Christmas stamp that should be most appropriate.

Issuing these types of stamps is not new to the Liberal party, because again in my research into the Postmaster General's report for 1956 the Postmaster General of that time stated that it was under study to issue stamps representing floral designs of a provincial character. I hope the Postmaster General will at a later date outline the three stamps which have been issued, tell us who designed the stamps, and possibly he could also mention the sort of stamps which may be coming out at a later date which represent the other provinces of Canada, and what date they expect to issue them.

As I mentioned previously, there are many items which I wanted to bring out of concern to my own riding, but before closing my remarks I do feel I would be remiss if I did not refer the Postmaster General to the fact that