

Supply—Post Office

In Kitchener there are 276 post office boxes, 276 being rented with none empty, and 26 companies or individuals pick up their mail at the letter carrier wicket. In St. Catharines there are 313 post office boxes, 308 of which are rented with 5 empty, and 26 companies or individuals pick up their mail at the letter carrier wicket. In Winnipeg there are 617 post office boxes, 609 of which are rented with 8 empty, and 588 companies or individuals have made arrangements to call for their mail at the letter carrier wicket. Once more I draw attention to the fact that this is not general delivery; this is a special service given to persons or companies who cannot get the service they require in the way of postal delivery.

In Regina there are 483 post office boxes, 470 of which are rented with 13 unrented, and 112 companies or individuals pick up their mail at the letter carrier wicket. In Calgary there are 400 post office boxes all of which are rented, and 354 companies or individuals pick up their mail at the letter carrier wicket. In Edmonton there are 462 post office boxes in the main post office, 461 of which are rented with 1 empty, and 221 persons or companies pick up their mail at the letter carrier wicket. In Vancouver there are 897 boxes of which 843 are rented, leaving 54 empty; 589 companies or individuals pick up their mail at the letter carrier wicket.

In some of the cities I have mentioned there are branch post offices where there are empty post office boxes, but most of these companies are within range of the downtown post office where the mail is directed first. That is where they collect the mail. It seems to me, particularly in view of the fact that the department has taken such a step to reduce mail deliveries, that some consideration should be given to these literally thousands of companies and individuals who find that in order to collect their mail and carry on business in a normal way, they are obliged not only to pick up the mail themselves at the main post office but to put the post office staff to considerable inconvenience to collect this mail and have it ready for them if and when they call to pick it up.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): I was quite interested in what the member for Kootenay West had to say with regard to the various issues of postage stamps, and I shall have a little more to say about that later. On several occasions I have pointed out to the department that in this day and age, when the horse and buggy has gone and the automobile is used for the delivery of rural mail, more attention should be given to the extension of rural routes, and regulations should not be so drastic as to curtail the delivery of mail to people in the rural areas.

There is another item that I think is rather confusing to a great number of people. Some time ago it was broadcast across the country that all first-class mail would be airborne. Such is not the case. Mail posted in many areas does not have a chance in the world of being carried by air. So it is rather misleading to many Canadian citizens who think their first-class mail is airborne. I am going to ask the minister to indicate to the house what percentage of first-class mail is actually carried by air.

The hon. member for Elgin mentioned the rural mail carrier. Probably in this day and age, when hours of work and rates of pay are very seriously considered by many industries, I think the rural mail carrier, whilst his job is let on a contract basis, is the forgotten man in the postal department.

Coming back to what the hon. member for Kootenay West had to say regarding issues of postage stamps, particularly the wildlife issues, I take some little interest in the various issues of stamps. I would suggest, among other things, that each of the provinces of Canada has a flower that is known as its provincial flower.

Mr. Herridge: We have the dogwood.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): I was just going to point out that the province of British Columbia has the dogwood; Alberta, the wild rose; Manitoba, the wild crocus; Saskatchewan, the red prairie lily; Ontario, the trillium; Quebec, the wild blue flag or iris; New Brunswick, the violet; Prince Edward Island, the lady's slipper; Nova Scotia, the arbutus; Newfoundland, the pitcher plant or Indian slipper. I might mention that the pitcher plant was selected for Newfoundland by the late Queen Victoria. This information is obtainable from the *Canadian Geographical Journal*.

The Falkland islands, as we all know very well, are very dependent upon the sea and they have a stamp issue that shows the various famous sailing vessels that called at the ports in those islands. The Falkland islands have been able to incorporate a very fine picture of our Queen in their stamps. So I suggest that when the department is considering a new issue of stamps it considers the provincial flowers that I have mentioned and, along with them, a fine portrait of the Queen. Just to show the minister what I have in mind, I am going to send over to him some samples I have here. I hope he will view them with interest.

Mr. Small: First of all I should like to make the same remarks I made about the estimates of the transport department last week, that the figures we are discussing here