

Mr. GREEN: Were they taken on the permanent staff or were other men put on?

Mr. EULER: They would be taken on the permanent staff only if they were on the eligible list and appointed by the civil service commission.

Mr. O'NEILL: There are a great many places in British Columbia where the post office used to be closed on Wednesday afternoon, now under this new arrangement the men are working on both Saturday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon. A lot of people would be quite agreeable to having the post office closed on Wednesday afternoon. As a matter of fact the stores are all closed; there is nobody around the town except in the post office, and only one or two people call during the entire afternoon to get their mail. The people as a whole are quite prepared to have the post office closed on Wednesday afternoon, and they have asked me to intercede with the Post Office Department to have that done.

Mr. EULER: The district inspectors have been given power to use their own judgment in cases such as those to which my hon. friend has referred, and if his people would make application to the district inspector, the post office may be closed.

Mr. O'NEILL: Thank you.

Mr. GREEN: Have the postmasters in the cities the power to say there shall be no mail delivery on Saturday afternoon or on any particular statutory holiday?

Mr. EULER: No.

Mr. LENNARD: There has certainly been an increase in employment due to the delivery of mails on the holidays, but I understood the minister to say no.

Mr. EULER: I corrected my first answer.

Mr. LENNARD: Then, as to the increase in cost, I know that in Hamilton the increased cost for the twelve months ended December 31, 1937, was some \$2,700.

Mr. EULER: Was it worth it?

Mr. LENNARD: No. I am speaking of Hamilton in particular because I know conditions there. Not one of the business places that have been polled—that have been canvassed—is in favour of the holiday delivery of mail. In fact a great many business houses have instructed the postmaster in Hamilton not to have any mail delivered to their places of business on Saturday afternoon or holidays. The employees are also very much against it, because they have now to work on all statutory holidays throughout the year. They do not complain so much

about working at Christmastime, and perhaps it is not unreasonable that there should be one delivery on Christmas morning. But the men complain of having to work on the first of July, Labour Day, Civic Holiday and other statutory holidays throughout the year, when they used to be free to go out with their families and enjoy themselves. While the extra time they thus put in on holidays accumulates, it is given to them in January or February of the following year, which they claim is a time of year when they cannot go anywhere or do anything with their families, and a few free days then are a poor substitute for the annual statutory holidays.

The holiday mail delivery is also very unfair to the one man post office, the country post office, which is obliged to keep open the greater part of Christmas Day. As regards the larger post offices, in Hamilton, for instance, where the post office is open on Christmas Day, they took in at the wicket on Christmas Day, 1936, forty-seven cents, and on Christmas Day, 1937, fifty-five cents. They give a half-day service there, with two men at the wickets, and all they took in on Christmas Day was forty-seven cents in 1936, and fifty-five cents in 1937. I think the change is a failure all around so far as my part of the country is concerned.

Mr. MacNICOL: I perhaps should not worry the acting Postmaster General about the matter I am going to bring up. I wish the Postmaster General himself were in his seat so that I could speak a little more freely.

Mr. EULER: Go as far as you like.

Mr. DUNNING: Do not muzzle yourself.

Mr. MacNICOL: All right, because I know that if the acting Postmaster General can answer in a reasonable way, he will do so.

During the former term of the present government, under the direction, I assume, of the then Minister of Public Works, a very fine post office was erected at the corner of Appleton and St. Clair avenue west.

Mr. DUNNING: What city are these streets in?

Mr. MacNICOL: In Toronto. Perhaps it is because this is in Toronto that what I am going to relate took place, last spring. The former administration selected the site of the post office at the corner of Appleton avenue and St. Clair avenue known as station "L," because of its fine location. Many mail men, the ordinary "posties" who deliver mail, work from that post office; they take care of the whole north end of ward six and a large portion of South York adjacent to Toronto. Its situation is also satisfactory from the point