

postmaster have to pay that out of his own pocket?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: There are two kinds of offices. There are the revenue offices where the postmaster receives the whole revenue and pays his employees—

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: The whole revenue?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: A percentage. They are on a different basis from the other offices and are not provided for by the Civil Service Act, but by regulations of the department. These are country postmasters.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: But in towns with a population of say 2,500 or 3,000 people, how are they paid?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: The employees are paid by the department.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Paid by the department and employed by the department?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: There are two classes of postmasters. The city postmasters have nothing to do with paying their employees; these are in the Civil Service. In a revenue post office, as in a country post office, the postmaster is paid a certain percentage of the revenue and has to pay his employees out of his own pocket.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: And he appoints them?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: I would like to ask the Postmaster General how he is going to determine what proportion of the stamps sold in a city post office are used for war tax purposes. If I go to postal wicket and buy five hundred stamps, how is the Post Office Department to know what use I make of them?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: The calculations are based not so much on the number of stamps sold as on the number of letters handled by the post office. Of course, the result cannot be absolutely accurate, but it is pretty close to the mark.

Hon. Mr. TODD: I would like to draw the attention of the Postmaster General to a case in my county that verges on the ridiculous. A postmaster has to employ an assistant, and the remuneration that he receives for himself and his assistant is about \$1,000 a year, while a caretaker of the public building in which the post office is located receives, under the new classification, over \$1,000 a year, with free rent, free heat, and free water.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: I would like to voice a similar protest in regard to a most incongruous state of affairs that exists in my town. The postmaster has to be up until one or two o'clock in the morning to receive the incoming mail, and he has to be up at five in the morning to deliver the outgoing mail. He receives \$1,100 for doing this work. He has not time to go to bed. The man who looks after public buildings receives an equal salary, and gets a free house and a very good house.

There is another thing that I would like to draw attention to. Where the revenue of a post office is about \$5,000 a year, two clerks cost only about \$500 each, so the postmaster nets about \$4,000; whereas the postmaster in the city of Charlottetown receives only \$2,000 a year. There are many ragged edges in the Post Office Department that require trimming.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I would suggest that one of the difficulties mentioned is caused by the fact that public buildings were erected in small hamlets.

Hon. Mr. TODD: Honourable gentlemen from Montreal or Toronto may call my town a small hamlet, but I object to my honourable friend from Sussex doing so.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: I do not mind the badinage of my honourable friend; but I submit that it is a ridiculous state of affairs that a man who has to work twenty-four hours a day, and therefore has to employ an assistant, receives only \$1,000 a year.

Hon. Mr. McSWEENEY: If he is up all night and all day, what does the assistant do?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Maybe he sleeps for the postmaster.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: In this case the assistant is a lady, and takes charge of the post office in the daytime while the postmaster is sleeping. This is no joke, honourable gentlemen. I submit that it should be within the power of the Postmaster General to correct an anomaly of this kind.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: It seems to me that in these days of what might be called flamboyant democracy there is nothing wrong in a caretaker receiving as large a salary as a postmaster. They both have to live, and surely one man is entitled to the same luxuries as the other enjoys.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: The caretaker does not have to employ an assistant.