

be eliminated. I wonder if it is really appreciated how vitally important are the developments at Chippawa, Beauharnois and many other points throughout the country. From what I have seen I am convinced that they are not adequately protected, and I am asking the minister to do something about the matter.

Mr. CHURCH: So much federal work has been placed on the shoulders of city police forces that they have not the requisite number of men to carry out their own functions, namely, to protect life and property in the larger cities. In my opinion the dominion should enforce its own law, or as an alternative pay a subsidy to the larger cities for that enforcement.

Item agreed to.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

265. Departmental administration, including amounts required to pay allowances to typists, grade one, employed cutting stencils, in accordance with regulations approved by order in council, \$438,000.

Mr. CHURCH: I should like to call the attention of the new Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) to the rotunda of terminal "A" at Bay and Front streets in Toronto. Toronto is without an adequate post office, and yet it gives this government \$8,000,000 in revenue, the largest by millions of any other city. The building at the corner of Front and Bay streets should be fixed up, especially the rotunda. Our post office is a great public utility; yet this building in Toronto is not at all creditable to the government compared with other public utility buildings and their modern plants. This building, situated beside the union station, is closed at one o'clock on Saturday until Monday morning. When travellers and tourists go there to the post office to buy a postage stamp or get their mail, they find a card on the door after one o'clock on Saturday, telling them to ask directions from the nearest policeman to the post office on Adelaide street. The result is that a tourist has to try to find a strange place on a hot day. I have not seen this notice personally nor do I know about it myself, but I have received two or three letters about it and about the lack of service near the boats and the railway station at week-ends. We have a splendid staff of postal officials who work under poor conditions.

The Canadian postal system should be expanded along the lines of the British system, with additional new features and modern services. We should have a proper service in Toronto, and the cost of city delivery should be reduced to the drop rate of one cent. Surely the money taken from the wholesale

[Mr. Ross (St. Paul's).]

and retail houses and the labouring men of Toronto, nearly eight million dollars, should not be devoted to maintaining a system all over the country. The minister has only been in office for a few days, but, since he is from the Toronto district himself, I urge that he look into this situation.

Hon. W. P. MULOCK (Postmaster General): My hon. friend's first question deals with a matter which comes under the Department of Public Works. I shall be glad to give consideration to his second question.

Mr. HAZEN: What was the revenue of the Post Office Department last year?

Mr. MULOCK: The revenue for 1939-40 was \$44,208,369.48 gross.

Mr. HAZEN: Will the minister consider sending mail to soldiers overseas free of charge? It means a great deal to these men to be able to keep in close touch with their homes. I would extend this suggestion to include parcels as well as other mail. I know from experience how pleasant it is to receive mail and how it helps to strengthen one's morale, if I may put it in that way. I earnestly ask the minister to consider this suggestion.

Mr. CHURCH: When will the new building on Fleet street in Toronto be opened? I know that because this is a public building, it will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works, but I notice the minister of that department is here to-night and I urge both ministers not to let a day be lost in getting this building ready. When one goes into the union station at Toronto on a train, one sees trucks everywhere filled with mail. There is no place to put the mail and quite often it is spoiled during inclement weather. This is a public utility, and the public would not stand this kind of service from the Bell Telephone or a gas company or a transportation or power system. Toronto has been very long suffering, but I hope that this building will be completed with all speed, especially now that there is a war on.

Has the government also given any consideration to carrying soldiers' mail free? The government carries newspapers and that class of mail, some of them being objectionable United States newspapers, at a loss of from three to four million dollars.

Mr. MULOCK: At the present time soldiers' mail from overseas to Canada is free. I shall have to discuss the other matter raised by the hon. member for Broadview with my colleague, the Minister of Public Works, and I shall be glad to advise my hon. friend what progress is being made. I am glad to know