

REFLECTIONS—BY "RAMBLER."

If what I hear is correct, and I have good reason to believe it is, we may hear something in the near future which will be very interesting to our associates in Semi-Staff offices. There are also rumours around of a big awakening on the part of some of our Semi-Staff members. And why shouldn't there be? The Semi-Staff offices can help the association a lot themselves. I claim that to a great extent, these offices are solely to blame themselves for the isolated position they are in today and unless they awaken, and very quickly too, they are very liable, so far as their own efforts are concerned, to remain isolated. The Semi-Staff question is a big one and cannot be gone fully into in the space at my command, but I would strongly recommend that they bestir themselves at the earliest opportunity. The dawn is approaching. I, like my brother journalist "Heb," also find that you do meet people who will persist in speaking of things that they heard or of their own particular pet trouble, but I did have recently a case brought to my notice which, to say the least, is a rank case of injustice. In a certain office there is a clerk, on the Money Order wicket in full charge of cash and supplies of stamps to the value of three thousand dollars. He has been on the staff two years, has passed the two examinations, is married and has a small family and draws the niggardly salary of \$56.66 per month. This is the limit! The convention at Regina this year should be a very important event in the mind of every progressive postal clerk, and it behooves every branch to send wherever possible a delegate, or ask some other office to represent them. The time to form your resolutions is at hand, so that they can be sent in to the secretary for inclusion in the agenda. I would like to again draw attention to the important question of branch visiting. This is the greatest step to a live association that I have heard of, get together boys, its doing Regina and Moose Jaw good, it will prove as good to you. The clerks in our offices are rising in the estimation of the public. The "gentleman" on the parcel wicket is very significant! By the way "Heb," in his musings, is very enthusiastic on the characteristics of men in this branch of the service. He swears by them, the public swear about them as a rule. Clerks in some offices swear and rave at the odour arising from foreigners coming to the post office wickets and hanging around inside. Whenever will clerks understand that our post offices are only intended to act as immigration

halls to shelter them from our severe winters. Don't be surprised if you find a whole family has moved in some morning.

THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ASSOCIATION.

There is little reason to doubt that the Department, as an institution, is not over fond of our organization. It is not surprising, in fact, it's only natural that this should be so. It is also probable that, as the Association grows in strength, it will be approved of less and less. It can, therefore, we think, be assumed that the executive officials at the Capital would like to stunt the growth of our body as much as possible. We are of the opinion that the easiest manner of accomplishing this would be the very reverse to the present mode of dealing with us. The more trouble it is for the employees to find out for themselves the whys and wherefores of the numerous questions that crop up, the actual rules and regulations governing their conduct, pay, privileges, etc., so much the more will they continue to organize in order to get at the bottom of these things. At present the Department could hardly do much better if they were trying, and we hope they are not to keep the rank and file in as much ignorance as possible regarding matters seriously affecting them.

Our letters of enquiry on different subjects receive wonderfully clever replies, telling up just as little as possible, and thus making us all the more anxious to go deeper into the subject. Our Convention memoranda are practically ignored. "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Now we honestly believe that if the Department (and we may say here that, when we make use of the word Department, we intend to include all those acting as employers which includes the higher local officials as well as those at Ottawa), were to show its hand a little more and take the trouble to explain fully many of the points that at present are shrouded in darkness, they would be using the greatest force that exists to make our organization a worthless one. If they would only answer our enquiries on a more generous scale and give some attention to our Convention memoranda, no one would be able to question the honesty of their intentions.

After all, we are all like children. Give them an evasive answer and they'll make it their business to get the actual facts. Give them all particulars, and the subject loses most of its interest.