

Supply—Post Office

making inquiry of the public works department to see if we can find better accommodation.

Mr. Hatfield: According to Mr. Bertrand, the former postmaster general, this post office was put in a special group that had been let in 1939. The revenue at that point in 1939 was some \$3,000. Today it is over \$9,000. Still there is not sufficient post office space. The site is there in the main part of the town. What the people would like to have is the new post office that they were promised in 1939. I should like to have the minister reconsider the matter.

Mr. Rinfret: The regulations then were not the same as they are today. Prior to the war and during the war we had to lay aside certain places where it would have been convenient to have a new post office. We have a backlog of offices, and we have had to fix this figure of \$10,000 as the mark for the moment. We hope to be able later on to reduce it.

Mr. Pouliot: Mr. Chairman, I observe the golden rule. I am delighted to support the request of the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton because I know the place and I know that the Fraser Company has spent a great deal of money there. I also cannot forget that the hon. gentleman gave me support on the Temiscouata railway bill last year.

Mr. Low: How long after a certain centre qualifies by reaching the \$10,000 revenue mark do you usually wait until you make a decision with respect to a post office?

Mr. Rinfret: We make the recommendation to public works; and as the backlog is quite heavy, we have had to make categories even there, public works choosing those where the necessity is more pressing.

Mr. Hatfield: I understand that all first-class mail possible is now carried by air, whether there is an air mail stamp on it or not. In my constituency, the mail from the province of Quebec and the maritime provinces, if it is sent in by air mail, is delayed one or two days over train mail. But if it is coming from western Canada—from British Columbia, for instance—it is two or three days ahead, of course. But if the letter is mailed in Montreal to go by air mail—and it goes air mail, whether it has an air mail stamp on it or not—it is delayed one or two days because there is no air mail delivery in my constituency. It goes to Moncton by air mail and it goes from Moncton next day by train to Saint John and from Saint John back to my constituency. It is delayed one or two days. As to letters coming from the United States, the people have to notify those who send letters in

not to send them by air mail if they are in a hurry to get them there. I should like to ask the Postmaster General if anything has been done about that.

Mr. Rinfret: If the hon. member has one particular instance that he wants to bring to my attention, I shall be pleased to have it. The instructions that our officials have are that if a first-class letter can be expedited by sending it air mail, they have to send it that way. If it gets to its destination quicker by train they have to send it by train. Those are the instructions. If there are any instances that my hon. friend can give me, I shall be glad to look into them.

Mr. Catherwood: I should like to ask the minister if it is not right that some of our postal employees who have worked for 20 years in the department are not receiving three weeks' holidays. I understand that is a regulation of the department. Can he explain if there are some cases where it does not apply?

Mr. Rinfret: Some of the post offices that are under the civil service rule, those that are over \$3,000, are given three weeks' holidays. In some of the revenue post offices only two weeks are given, but we have under consideration at the present time giving them three weeks, the same as the others.

Mr. Catherwood: Is it not a regulation of the department that after 20 years' service in the department three weeks' holidays must be given?

Mr. Rinfret: I have just indicated that in some instances it is not exactly that, but we are trying to bring everybody up to the same level.

Mr. Higgins: I should like the name of the influential people who recommended the appointment of the postmaster at Holyrood, Newfoundland.

Mr. Rinfret: I will check through my record and let my hon. friend know.

Mr. Noseworthy: How does a community or a municipality of 80,000 people qualify for a post office? In York township we have approximately 80,000 people. All we have by way of post offices are little cubby holes in the back of grocery stores, meat stores and other kinds of stores. They must all be good Liberal supporters.

Item agreed to.

273. Air and land mail services, \$22,094,857.

Mr. Adamson: Has the Postmaster General received requests for new uniforms or more comfortable summer uniforms from the postmen who actually deliver the mail on the