

Mr. EULER: That service is still being given. Are the complaints about the fact that we have the service, or about the nature of the service?

Mr. GREEN: The complaints I have had are about the fact that the men are being forced to work on Saturday afternoons and holidays such as Dominion Day, Good Friday and Labour Day. The government is setting a poor example to other employers of labour. Why is it necessary to give a service of this type?

Mr. EULER: The government felt that it would be a great convenience to the citizens of this country to have that service on holidays and Saturday afternoons, and that is why it was done. That is the only answer I can give.

Mr. GREEN: Letters are delivered in the cities on Saturday afternoons, and left at offices after they are closed. Quite often it is very inconvenient. It is difficult to understand why it should be considered necessary to have mail deliveries on Saturday afternoons in the cities. Is there any special reason why that service should be given?

Mr. EULER: I can only suggest that if the mail is not delivered on Saturday afternoon, the people will not get it until Monday, as there are no deliveries on Sundays. Without this service, mail might arrive at the post office on Saturday morning and not be delivered until the following Monday. It has been thought that this is a service well worth giving to the people of this country.

Mr. GREEN: What compensation is given to the postal employees for working on holidays and Saturday afternoons? Do they get overtime?

Mr. EULER: These employees work a forty-four hour week, and any additional time that they are asked to give for this purpose is allowed to accumulate and they are given holidays accordingly.

Mr. GREEN: They get no overtime pay for that?

Mr. EULER: No.

Mr. BENNETT: The time is added to their holidays, is it not?

Mr. EULER: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: What has been the increased cost during the last calendar year as a result of this change in the service?

Mr. EULER: I am sorry I have not that information before me.

[Mr. Green.]

Mr. GREEN: Perhaps the minister could tell us what increase there has been in the staff as a result of the change.

Mr. EULER: There has been no increase.

Mr. GREEN: The minister surely does not mean that no new men have been taken on, because last session we were told that one of the reasons why this change was being inaugurated was to help solve the unemployment problem.

Mr. EULER: My answer was incorrect. There have been some increases in the staff, but I have not the information under my hand at the moment. I shall be glad to give it later.

Mr. GREEN: The minister will give that information to the committee later?

Mr. EULER: Yes; I think I can get that information for the committee.

Mr. GREEN: Were these men who were taken on the staff taken on through the civil service commission or appointed through the local Liberal associations?

Mr. EULER: Through the civil service commission—not the Liberal association.

Mr. GREEN: They were all engaged through the civil service commission?

Mr. EULER: That was my answer.

Mr. GREEN: That was not the case, I believe, in Vancouver.

Mr. EULER: Did my hon. friend say that was not the case there?

Mr. GREEN: I believe it was not the case in Vancouver. Can the minister say whether it was?

Mr. EULER: I cannot alter my answer. I said the appointments were made by the civil service commission, and I assumed I was giving an answer for the whole of Canada. I did not think there would be any exception in Vancouver or any other city, except that at Christmas time the extra help taken on is not engaged through the commission.

Mr. GREEN: I understand that part of the Christmas help were kept on and given permanent positions, and if that was the case they certainly were not engaged by the civil service commission. Surely the department can give us information on that point.

Mr. EULER: Some of them were kept on a little longer in order to liquidate the extra time they put in because of deliveries on Saturday afternoons and holidays.