

Questions

3. Yes.

4. (a) In 1919 all Commonwealth countries agreed not to return the remains of deceased service personnel to their home country for burial, on the principle of "equality for all" who gave their lives in World War I. (b) This policy has been reviewed on the average of once every three years since 1940 and is under active review at this time.

*POST OFFICE CLOSURES—ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES

Question No. 556—**Mr. McCleave:**

What is the policy of the Post Office Department with regard to ensuring that alternative opportunities to purchase stamps and money orders are available when small post offices are closed?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): When small post offices are closed and alternative service is provided by rural route, stamps may be purchased from the rural route contractor. Similarly, the contractor will accept an application for a money order from the customer and the order will be prepared by the distributing office postmaster.

If alternative service by rural route is not provided, customers may purchase money orders and stamps at the post office where they pick up their mail.

EMPLOYEES WITH RELATIVES IN PRESS GALLERY

Question No. 565—**Mr. Nielsen:**

Are there any employees of the government employed by Offices of Ministers of the Crown or in other sensitive employment who have spouses or other relatives who are members of the press gallery and, if so, how many of such employees are employed and in what position and capacity?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): It is not within the administrative responsibility of the Government of Canada to know who belongs to the Press Gallery.

GRAIN SHIPMENT FREIGHT ASSISTANCE

Question No. 572—**Mr. Beaudoin:**

1. Has there been a reduction of two dollars per ton in freight assistance on grain shipments and, if so, were the grain merchants and co-operatives of eastern Canada notified in advance?

2. Does the government intend to pursue this course of action in the future and, if so, what reduction in freight assistance on grain shipments is envisaged for next year as compared to this year's allocation?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):
1. An adjustment in the rates of assistance [Mr. Cadieux (Labelle).]

paid under the Feed Grain Assistance Regulations was announced by a press release on October 16. Details of these rate adjustments, which became effective November 1st, 1969, were announced by the Canadian Livestock Feed Board, to the trade, on October 22, 1969. To generally equalize the balance of cost to livestock feeders in Eastern Canada it was necessary to correct inequities in cost and therefore adjustments were not uniform in all areas. Adjustments ranged from zero to \$2.40 per ton, but there was an increase in the total dollars provided for the program.

2. The situation this year was caused by a heavier than anticipated demand on grains moving under the program. Any rate adjustments necessary next year will depend upon many variables including crop conditions in Eastern and Western Canada and market price relationship for western Canadian grain compared to substitute ingredients.

DVA EMPLOYEES, N.B., UNDER TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICES

Question No. 600—**Mr. MacRae:**

How many employees in the New Brunswick District of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including Canadian Pension Commission, War Veterans Allowance Board, etc. are now under notice of termination of employment?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): None. However, 26 employees in New Brunswick were notified that they are surplus to staff requirements, that the Department and the Public Service Commission would endeavour during the ensuing three months to find suitable alternative positions in the Public Service and that in the event that these efforts should prove unsuccessful they would be laid off.

TOTAL DVA EMPLOYEES, NEW BRUNSWICK

Question No. 601—**Mr. MacRae:**

What was the total number of Department of Veterans Affairs Employees (including Canadian Pension Commission, War Veterans Allowance, and others engaged in veterans' work) employed in New Brunswick on (a) March 31, 1965 (b) March 31, 1966 (c) March 31, 1967 (d) March 31, 1968 (e) March 31, 1969 (f) April 30, 1969 (g) May 31, 1969 (h) June 30, 1969 (i) July 31, 1969 (j) August 31, 1969 (k) September 30, 1969 (l) October 31, 1969 (m) November 30, 1969?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): (a) 638; (b) 644; (c) 638; (d) 609; (e) 593; (f) 592; (g) 585; (h) 580; (i) 576; (j) 575; (k) 573; (l) 567; (m) 562.