

are addressed in this branch. All menus for the parliamentary restaurant are stencilled and duplicated by this staff. The branch consists of one permanent chief, one permanent principal clerk, one grade 3 clerk, six full time clerks and stenographers. There is an average of 145 calls each day. Members filing is brought up to date each week-end, and accumulated envelopes are addressed. Stenographers, of necessity, must be qualified owing to the difficult and exacting nature of the work and the speed with which it is necessary to turn out a large volume of work each day. Some stenographers write as many as 70 letters per day. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and many stenographers have to come back every night to finish their work.

When the present parliament came into existence in 1940, there was at the House of Commons a staff of 24 filing clerks consisting of girls who were neither stenographers nor typists but were employed at keeping members' files in their rooms. They were paid \$4 a day. That service was immediately abolished and stenographers were instructed to look after the members' files. The result was a reduction of 24 persons in the staff and a saving of \$96 per day without any impairment in the members' secretarial work. In 1940, the staff consisted of 167 employees, in 1941, 140; and in 1942, 132. A decrease since 1940 of 35 employees.

Post Office

There were 13 clerks during the session of 1940, 7 in 1941, and there are 7 now. From inquiries made, this office is, I fear, understaffed, and we cannot reduce it any more. We have also to keep three men for the manual labour connected with this office. Our mail service is considerable, but it cannot be judged by the amount collected for the sale of stamps because letters and all mailable matter addressed to or sent by members of the house during the session are free of Canada postage. Huge quantities of *Hansard* are sent out almost every day. The office is kept open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on Sundays and holidays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is the busiest branch in our service. All members' mail is heavy. Our post office handles about 150 sacks a day.

Stationery

We have to keep a large stock of stationery for the members' correspondence, committee work and debates reporting. There is a considerable demand for all kinds of supplies such as nibs, pencils, erasers, clips, elastic bands, mucilage, et cetera, which are required by

[Mr. Speaker.]

about four hundred persons every day during sessions. We have, however, managed to reduce our expenses on that account. The amount voted for stationery in 1941-42 was \$34,000, but in spite of the extraordinary length of the session and the demands of several war organizations on our stock, we spent only \$28,000 in 1942, thus allowing \$6,000 to lapse and to be refunded to the consolidated revenue.

Messenger Service

Members of the House of Commons are the agents of their constituencies and they are written to on all kinds of subjects. They have to deal with ministers and government officials for their electors and as departmental officials are scattered in different parts of the city, a large messenger staff is required. This staff is distributed in offices as follows: Prime Minister's office: 1; Leader of the Opposition: 2; Chief Government Whip: 1; Clerk of the House: 1; Sergeant-at-Arms: 1; Press Gallery: 4; Accountant's office: 1; Parliamentary Papers: 1; Votes and Proceedings: 1; Committees Branch: 1; Liberal Caucus Room: 1; Conservative Caucus Room: 1; Room Sixteen: 1; Clerk of Equipment: 1.

It must be noted that most of these men are clerk-messengers who answer telephone calls and assist private secretaries in filing correspondence and papers.

We have an assistant chief messenger, a time-keeper, two printing bureau truck drivers for day and night service and 22 messengers for the service of all members of the house. This is not excessive. I have had a statement prepared showing the number of messages carried daily since 19th January, 1942, to 27th July last. That statement shows that during that period there were 70,842 calls. During the long adjournment and recess last year we kept our messengers on duty because a number of offices in the building were used by commissions connected with war, such as the committee on War Expenditures, Labour Supply committee, the Air Minister of New Zealand, the Canada-United States Economic committee, the Australian Military mission and the Munitions and Supply committee. Moreover, there are always members of the house in the building during recess. We have had as many as forty at a time when the house is not in session, and we have given them a messenger service.

Some of our messengers are old and have been employed by the house for many years. Eight of them are over 65 years old. Three of them are permanent, the other five are temporary employees not entitled to pension. They have been here eleven, twelve, sixteen and