

little or no direct association with the project under construction, a heavy public responsibility rests on the architect. Your Committee is of opinion that contract terms should be the subject of exhaustive review between the professions and all departments contracting for professional services in order to make certain that in future the basis of agreement is such as will ensure that the public interest is ever paramount.

Second Class Mail

The rates for mailing of newspapers and periodicals are fixed by Parliament, section 11 of the Post Office Act being the pertinent section. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the probability that the cost to Post Office in handling this class of mail may have exceeded \$24,000,000 in 1957 while the revenues approximated \$6,000,000. This heavy deficit incurred in second class mail is likely to increase in future years. Your Committee accepts with reservation these financial statistics provided by Post Office and trusts that its costing programme now in progress will be both more comprehensive and informative than that followed in 1955-56.

In his report on 1956-57 accounts, the Auditor General points to anomalies in current application of section 11 of the Post Office Act because of changes that have since taken place in publishing practices and in the fields of distribution and communication, such as new types of publications, new arrangements with respect to places of publications and the growth of magazines where the recipients are members of associations rather than subscribers.

The Public Accounts

The Public Accounts and the Auditor General's Report were referred to this Committee for enquiry and report. The blue book, "Public Accounts of Canada", for the year ended March 31, 1957, presently under review, weighs five pounds, and while it may be of great utility as a reference source, it seems to be now overly voluminous for the requirements of this Committee. It is also noted that although the fiscal year ended on March 31, 1957, the Accounts were not tabled in the House of Commons until January 15, 1958, despite the fact that the Session commenced on October 14, 1957. Your Committee is informed that the cost of printing was \$52,600.

The Financial Administration Act requires that the Minister of Finance settle the 'form' of the Public Accounts, but long-established practice is that the book, especially the degree of particularization, be periodically discussed with the Public Accounts Committee. There has been no conference on the subject for several years, therefore it is suggested that the attention of the Minister of Finance be drawn to submissions recently made to this Committee, together with associated comments by Committee members, to the end that ministerial proposals for improving the Public Accounts may be considered when this Standing Committee is again organized.

Treatment of Service Receipts

Since the war the nature and scope of public spending have changed materially in that now many projects are highly technical, troublesome to assess and in value large sums. These making major demands on parliamentarians' time, a risk now is that examinations of estimates items will more and more be limited to those showing increases with the possibilities of economies in those that are static to a large extent ignored.