

APPENDIX No. 6

By Mr. Charters:

Q. Do you know how many buildings are occupied by the Interior Department?
—A. I have heard the number at from twelve to fifteen, I could not say.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are there any other conditions you can tell us about? What about the absence of employees—A. I notice that matter has been gone into a little but the difficulty has been of course that this was an exceptional year.

Q. From your own experience do you feel free to say anything about it?—A. I feel quite free to say that on occasions some employees take advantage of the leave of absence, but I am quite sure that it is not general, that there are perhaps employees who don't take advantage of their full leave and don't attempt to take any sick leave at all.

By Mr. Redman:

Q. Have you ever gone into the statistics sufficiently to come to a conclusion as to what would be a reasonable number of days of absence?—A. No, I have not.

Q. Have you any idea at all?—A. No, I would not attempt to say except I remember one instance when, during last winter, Mr. Lyle and I were in Chicago we looked into efficiency records there. We talked with the Superintendent of Efficiency of the West Park Board who told us that one days' leave in each month was allowed for illness and other causes above the annual leave. That would be considered reasonable. He said there were certain members of the staff who always managed to get in that one day a month. There were others who would not think of it.

By the Chairman:

Q. You are in the Postal Note Division?—A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: In the statement we have as to leave of absence last year among their 58 employees in the branch they averaged 41 days absence over and above the regular holidays. Can you tell us if the epidemic last fall was specially felt in that branch?—A. In my own staff, comprising a little more than 20, for weeks we had only half the staff there. They were either ill with the flu or at home because there was flu in the house. There was notice sent around that people who had influenza in the house were not supposed to come to the office.

By Mr. Charters:

Q. Did you put on extra people to take their places?—A. No, our work is such that we can catch it up later on.

By the Chairman:

Q. I find that in that branch every employee was absent from one cause or another.—A. Yes, that includes myself.

Q. We find also in the statement that the male employees in the branch averaged 12.7 days over and above the annual leave?—A. That is just one of those things that go to show that statistics taken for a single year don't indicate the actual condition of affairs. Mr. Fortier who is in charge of that branch, had not taken any annual leave for three years and he took six weeks last winter.

Q. I notice that the females averaged 43.6?—A. It is very high. I think it is too high.

Q. Have you any general explanation to give why the females were absent more than the males?—A. No, the matter does not go through my hands.

By Mr. Redman:

Q. Were any of them nursing cases?—A. I think a few were. I have in mind one or two who, I understand, were nursing.

[Mr. Joseph Charles O'Connor.]