

If they are not returned, we shall assume that they reached the person at the right address. If they are returned, we shall have to do more searching.

But in the meantime we shall be able to increase the number of parcels which we can send every month, provided the post office is willing to take them, and in that way distribute quite a number of medals, even to veterans who have not asked for them, but who may be glad to get them without having to sign an application form.

We have stepped up our dispatch of parcels now to a little over 2,500 a month, and I think that within the next year we shall be able at least to double that amount.

The percentage of parcels returned to us as undelivered is one in five. That is not too bad. So we propose to increase our distribution to a number which we can handle and which the post office will accept by sending out first of all parcels to those who are entitled to three medals or more, and then once we are through with that, we shall send them out to all those who are entitled to two medals, and finally to those who are entitled to one. In this way I hope that within a few years we shall be able to mail out all the medals to everybody.

Mr. BADANAI: Until the next war!

Mr. MONTGOMERY: Do you get back any receipts?

Mr. LALONDE: We did not think that once the package had been delivered, the veteran would bother sending us a receipt; so it might be misleading more than anything else.

Mr. WEICHEL: Are those application cards still made available at all post offices?

Mr. LALONDE: Yes. There may be some places which do not have them any more. But for the most part they are available in all post offices. We are still getting some.

But in view of the new system, we feel we should handle everything we can right now in dispatching those parcels; and then when we receive the ones we get back eventually, I think we will have to find a means of getting these people to tell us where they live. It may be through another card or it may be through a modified form of publicity.

Mr. WEICHEL: Do you not think that the post offices should have these cards on hand at all times?

Mr. LALONDE: Well, there is no objection to that. The point is that as far as we are concerned, if we have the address, we do not need an application. It is only in those cases where the parcels are returned because they are mailed to the wrong address, that we will need an application. But I think we shall have to devise a new form—not the same as the old one.

Mr. WEICHEL: When I was in the post office we would have a chap coming in and asking if we had a card to mail about the medals; and he would say: I forgot to give you a card, so I had better give you one.

Mr. LALONDE: In those days they had to fill out a card.

Mr. ROGERS: What about putting up a notice in each post office?

Mr. LALONDE: You mean a poster?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, just a simple poster.

Mr. LALONDE: We have thought about that; it might bring in a few applications.

Mr. ROGERS: It might be effective in the case of those who are interested; but there are quite a number who are not interested.

Mr. LALONDE: I am afraid that it would be about one tenth as fast as the procedure which we are attempting to use now.