

Supply—Post Office

identity undetermined. He wears a neat, if old-fashioned, derby hat, has expressive eyes, and a handsome white beard, while his sky-blue coat is marked by shoulder tabs, and lapels that might well serve as a pattern for designers seeking something new in this sartorial feature. For a greatly improved effect, use this famous stamp upside down.

That is from a prominent citizen of Ottawa. Then I have a copy of a letter from a personal friend of mine, a contractor in British Columbia, who writes me as follows:

Dear Bert:

In our local paper the *Daily Colonist* I read about your remarks regarding the new issue of stamps. Allow me to congratulate you. I as well as many I have spoken to here in Victoria all agree they should be withdrawn. The mountain goat looks as though it might pass out at any time. It is no more like a mountain goat than a very sleepy sheep with upright horns.

As for the caribou, it looks like something one might have after a good drunk. Talk about seeing double! In any case there appears to be seven caribou with horns and one with only one horn.

I do hope that you and the other members of the house may prevail upon the powers that be to cancel this proposed issue.

Then one other letter from the manager of one of the largest companies in British Columbia:

Dear Mr. Herridge:

I have noted with interest your comments in respect to the "wildlife" postage stamps which are coming out in the new issue.

I do not know as to whether there was any comment made in respect to one of the stamps in a previous issue—I forget what they may have commemorated but it is supposed to be, as I remember it, a mountain sheep. I am enclosing a couple of the stamps to which I refer. To my mind, this is a very poor reproduction of a mountain sheep and to me it looks more like a cross between a cow and a supreme court judge with a wig. I realize there is no point in my bringing this question up, but I was prompted to do so by the remarks which have been made in respect to the new issue.

Then a paper published in Australia that specializes in stamps and contains plenty of information about stamps of all kinds—it is published for stamp collectors and is called *Stamp News*—has a leading article on page 3 entitled "Drunkard's Nightmare", with the subheading "Politician's View of Canadian Stamp", which reads as follows:

By Dace Logigas

Who gives a blow to blow description of the bitter controversy which has raged around the issue of a series of wildlife stamps in Canada.

I quote briefly from it, but before doing so may I say I am sure this is much more serious than just a jocular affair in the House of Commons. Many people are concerned about this issue of stamps because they want the stamps to be worthy of the engraving art in Canada. The article reads in part:

Life these days must be a pretty grim affair for certain Canadian citizens.

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That is the minister. I continue:

They are the small but important batch of officials responsible for the issue of Canada's postage stamps. Once a happy band of individuals, praised and feted universally, they have since 1951 been a haunted, fear-ridden race, hunted looks appearing on their faces whenever the subject of stamps is mentioned.

They are in trouble again over the 1956 wild-life series and public abuse is being heaped on their unlucky heads.

But the volume of hard words directed at them in recent years has blunted their susceptibilities to such an extent that they are now said openly to wince only at the most devastating remarks of their unkind critics.

Up to 1951 all was rosy in the Canadian philatelic garden. Canada had a good record of stamp issues amongst empire countries, being among the first of the commonwealth nations to issue attractive pictorial commemoratives. Some of these it is true, were no works of art, but they did not merit any severe criticism either; and the design that occasionally fell below expectations was more than compensated by some of the really superb issues of pre-war Canada, issues such as the 1933 5-cent U.P.U. congress, 5-cent 1933 Royal William, 3-cent 1934 Cartier, 13-cent 1935 Jubilee to name but a few.

Then it goes on to deal quite critically with the musk ox stamp, the wild sheep stamp and the wild goat stamp. I mention these things to indicate even an international interest in the production of stamps in Canada. I believe our department should seek advice from some other countries so the procedures would be improved and we would be able to have stamps issued equal to those in the countries I have mentioned.

I have another little matter here, Mr. Chairman. I was very glad to note recently that the Post Office Department has a humour section, as an indication that the majority of the staff have not lost their sense of humour. I want to deal now with the cause of that humour. It is "Postmen and Pooches". A dog may be man's best friend, but it would be difficult to get the postman to agree with that sentiment, particularly a good number in my constituency who have been bitten. Post office reports indicate that 183 letter carriers have claimed compensation so far this year for bites severe enough to require medical attention. No doubt thousands of other unfortunate postmen patched themselves up without professional aid.

As far as my constituency is concerned, at the present time there are 10 cases of postmen having been bitten, but fortunately none of them seriously. However, I understand that the department has given some consideration to this, and it is an important question because it is a very serious thing for postmen delivering mail on a good many routes, and it is a concern in countries other than Canada. The department tried to rise to the occasion, Mr. Chairman, by issuing a directive to the postmen in Trail, of which I was