

Auditor General's Report—Part N

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, May 9, 1898.

SIR,—Under the Civil Service Act, as amended by 52 Victoria, chapter 12, railway mail clerks may be paid a certain mileage allowance in addition to their salaries. In my opinion, it would not be legal to pay this allowance, as such, to employees other than railway mail clerks. The crucial point therefore is, are superintendents railway mail clerks within the meaning of Schedule B of the Civil Service Act? Section 120 of 60-61 Victoria provides that the Governor in Council may appoint to the railway mail service branch, a controller, together with such superintendents, railway mail clerks, &c., as are deemed necessary. In this section there is clearly a distinction made between superintendents and railway mail clerks, which I think renders the provision of the Civil Service Act with regard to mileage allowance inoperative so far as the former class of employees is concerned. For this reason it appears to me that superintendents, when they travel on Government business, should receive their actual necessary expenses.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Deputy Postmaster General.

J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

POST OFFICE DEPT., OTTAWA, May 13, 1898.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 9th instant, regarding the mileage allowance paid to the superintendents of the railway mail service, which you appear to think should be paid to railway mail clerks alone.

In reply, I have to say that, commencing with the 1st of June next, the superintendents, when they travel on Government business, will be paid their actual necessary expenses.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Auditor General.

R. M. COULTER, D.P.G.

Deduction for Superannuation Purposes from salary of J. A. W. LeBel.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, May 7, 1898.

SIR,—With reference to the pay-lists of the month of August, 1897, from the office of the post office inspector at Quebec, I beg to call your attention to the superannuation deduction made from the salary of Mr. J. A. W. LeBel, who was recalled to Civil Service by Order in Council dated August 10th, 1897. It appears from the Civil Service list that Mr. LeBel, who was formerly a clerk in the Quebec post office, was born in November, 1838, and consequently was not, at the time of his new appointment—being over forty-five years of age—entitled to the benefits of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, as amended by 56 Victoria, chapter 12, unless it can be shown that he is so entitled in consequence of the provision made in section 12 of the Civil Service Superannuation Act respecting the rank or emolument of the position to which he may be recalled.

Mr. LeBel was paid salary from August 23rd, and drew, in addition, the full superannuation allowance for that month.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

The Deputy Postmaster General.

J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

Employment of Temporary Letter Carriers at Montreal.

AUDIT OFFICE, OTTAWA, Sept. 15, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that I have received an Order in Council of the 4th instant, authorizing payment of salary at the rate of \$360 per annum to Albert Bissonnette, Ludger Carignan and Celestine Gravel, who have been employed at the Montreal post office as letter carriers since July last.

It appears from the information furnished by the department that the employment of these persons in the first instance was illegal, for the reason that they had not passed the Civil Service examination; and I desire to point out that the same objection holds good to their employment in a temporary capacity, inasmuch as they have not qualified, under section 47 of the Civil Service Act, as amended by 58-59 Victoria, chapter 15, section 8. In view of this fact, no payment should be made them for the services rendered as letter carriers without the special authority of Parliament.