

## APPENDIX No. 6

account of merit, should receive recognition and stated that in regard to the reclassification and certain promotions which had been made I had not had a chance to offer my opinion. I just mentioned a moment or two ago that there was no co-operation in the department, that promotions were never considered before the superintendents and the heads of the department together. Since the 19th October, 1915, I know of no single occasion upon which the superintendents and administrative heads have met together.

"In order to impress you with what I had in my mind, I mentioned the case of Mr. Atwater, who is clerk in charge of the Enquiry Branch, and I am enclosing herewith copies of the various memoranda in regard to his case, from which you will see that his promotion had been long pressed for before it was actually granted. This man, for years, has been practically in charge of a branch and I again repeat the opinion stated in my memoranda, which opinion was held by Mr. Fiset when he was acting as Assistant Deputy Postmaster General, and which I venture to say was the opinion of all the responsible officials of this department, that Mr. Atwater should have received his promotion long before he did.

"Another object in bringing up his case was that if I had been consulted in regard to the reclassification I would have certainly submitted to the Civil Service Commissioners the strongest recommendation that the work over which he is responsible should be formed into a separate branch, and that he should be at the head of it. Before his last promotion was made, which was more than two years after it had been recommended by Mr. Fiset, and approved of by the Postmaster General in the presence of Mr. Fiset and myself, I had to personally consult Dr. Shortt in regard to this man's claims and Dr. Shortt had no hesitation in agreeing with my conclusions. Had the promotion been made at that time—and it was possible for it to have been done—and was even contemplated as shown by the draft of the report to council prepared at that time, he would have been considerably in advance of the salary he is now receiving.

"In order to illustrate how thoroughly I took up this question of promotions when an opportunity arose, I also send copies of the memoranda which took place at the time of the promotion of Mr. W. E. McEachern.

"That is the man that I have asked to be transferred to my branch.

"As I stated to you on Monday afternoon, I do not wish you to misconstrue the purport of my bringing this general matter to your attention. It was done in no antagonistic spirit and only for the purpose of assisting the Commissioners in seeing that promotions are properly made. With a great portion of the employees of this department I have had personal experience, and certain of them look to me to see that I will protect their interests.

"There are other cases in the department which I would like to be allowed to bring to your attention, but in view of certain proceedings which I understand are pending, I will for the moment ask to be allowed to defer any further remarks.

"Thanking you for the courtesy of allowing me to place these matters before you,

"Believe me to remain,

"Yours truly,

"Assistant Deputy Postmaster General."

Now this man at that time was in charge of the Enquiry Branch, he is not a superintendent but a clerk, in charge of the Enquiry Branch, and he has a staff of something like between 50 or 60 employees.

Q. Your object in referring to this special case is to illustrate the system, it is not a personal matter?—A. Yes, there is nothing personal in this matter at all, it is just the system.

[Mr. Robert Fowler.]