

is situated at the most inconvenient side of it. During more than half of the year if you have gone around all the corners leading to the main entrance it will be found to be very much like a side entrance only more so. There is a wooden porch with one or two slippery steps to climb, the door of which is weighted by fifty or sixty tons so that by no possibility can any careless intruder allow the fresh air to penetrate inside the porch. This is the door of the first part. Once inside, however, it is all plain sailing. You have only to count three or four slippery stone steps, grab one half of the door by the handle and pull it open. If a lady or two is coming out at the same time you will hold the door open until they have passed, and then silently determine to get inside before the man coming out can intercept you. The other half of the door is firmly bolted into the rock so that ingress and egress is like unto a stream of people trying to cross a narrow bridge from two sides at the same time. When at length you have obtained entrance inside the door of the second part you find yourself in another or inner porch, and the measures taken to see that this inner porch excludes the faintest breath of air from the outside render access to the lobby still more difficult. To the right and left of the porch there are two very narrow swinging baize doors, each about one foot wide, and as a matter of practice nearly all the people desire to use only the left hand door going in. Here again is a delay and if you should be going in behind a fat woman who is out of breath and travelling very slow, you will require a patience which is seldom seen in the busy hours of a busy city. Once inside you will find four people waiting to be served at the single stamp wicket and three of them are women who have six questions to ask and several parcels to weigh before you can be waited on. You open your letter box and find therein a red card indicating that there is a registered letter waiting for you at the far end of the lobby and also, if you are anyways lucky, a letter containing a postal note or money order for a sum of money.

You take the money order or postal note round to the money order branch where there are three wickets. One of these is constantly closed, for no other reason, apparently, than that there is business enough for four. Opposite the remaining two wickets, one served by a man and the other by a woman, is a crowd of waiting men and women. Some of them have books of the savings bank branch, which in this case is not separated from the money order business or from the postal note business, nor is the making out of money orders or postal notes distinct from the cashing of these. The depositor who has a savings bank account has to have the deposit carefully counted, a receipt carefully given, an entry in the customers book and several entries in the forms and books of the post office. All this time a man with a postal note for a few dollars which could be cashed in five seconds has to wait and look on until the tedious process of a deposit is completed. But there is still one person ahead of you and he requires a money order which has to be carefully filled out and entered and another careful counting of money paid in. It is only too clear that the authorities are aware of the utter inefficiency of the service provided in the Ottawa post office money order and postal note branch, as they provide benches for persons to sit down upon and wait. These benches form admirable points from which to view a post office department's exhibition of how not to do it. When you go to the registered letter branch there is only one wicket and this branch is so undermanned that it is with difficulty that the clerks can find time to wait even on one wicket. The same thing is true of the general delivery wicket and all round there is an utterly insufficient service. The long suffering public has no means of redress for the post office is a monopoly and they are compelled to go there whether they are well served or otherwise. But in these days of progress and development and activity is there any reason why one of the most important post offices in the Dominion of Canada should be undermanned and overworked when there are surely some persons applying for employment fitted