

his attaining in time an inspectorship, or at least the position of Postmaster or Asst. P.M. To hold down a job of this kind it should be necessary that the applicant for the position be a fully qualified postal clerk with an all round experience of every department in the Postal Service.

How many clerks at present in the Service can lay claim to an all round postal experience? Very few, for the simple reason that a clerk is usually kept to the department to which he has proved of use, and his chances of learning any of the work that is done in other departments are very small indeed.

There is indeed something wrong in a system which will start a clerk entering the office on a certain class of work and after say four or five years find him still doing the same kind of work, although his salary has received several increases. In several offices one will find men of four, five and six years service with a salary in proportion, perhaps sorting on the same rack as when they entered the Service, whilst the really responsible positions, in which one would expect to find men with a record of service behind them, are held by clerks with only a few weeks experience.

The man at the rack has become too valuable to his department, and rather than place him in the more responsible positions, in spite of the fact that he has merit and service behind him, the officials would rather put the green man in the responsible place, to save themselves the trouble of breaking in another man to take the place of the man at the rack.

Surely a system that keeps a man in a groove because he has proved of value is not a fair one. It is time that the clerks in the groove made an endeavour to get out of them. How can a man be an efficient postal clerk if his knowledge is only of the work done in one department?

When the Guide exams come along the clerks are expected to know something of the work of all departments. Such knowledge is best gained by actual experience, such experience as a man cannot gain if he is to be continually kept in one groove.

Why wont the Service be fair, and allow every man entering it a chance to acquire that general all round knowledge of the postal work which the Guide exams expect of him?

#### REGINA AND MOOSE JAW BRANCHES FRATERNIZE.

"Well, the Moose Jaw boys are some great crowd." This was the unanimous verdict of that lucky party from Regina who managed to spend the afternoon and

evening of Nov. 24th as guests of the Moose Jaw branch. The members from Regina arrived at Moose Jaw about 4.00 p.m. and were met at the station by Messrs. Baxter and Ferguson, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Moose Jaw branch. The party then adjourned to the Post Office, where everybody was made acquainted, and the boys were soon busy comparing the systems, working conditions, etc., of their respective offices. After a round of inspection at the office, the Regina party was split into sections and each section was shown the sights of the town by a Moose Jaw member. After reassembling, a visit was made to the Rex theatre, and finally the whole crowd gathered at the King George hotel, to find that a sumptuous banquet was ready. It was sure some banquet and the various dishes soon disappeared to the accompaniment of much jolly conversation and jesting. Mr. White, President of the Moose Jaw branch, gave a speech of welcome to the visitors, and Messrs. Gardner and Child replied on behalf of Regina. The speeches were unfortunately cut short, as the Regina boys had to make a hurried dash for their train. The train pulled out amidst cheers for the Moose Jaw and Regina branches, and the Regina boys left behind them the hearty wish that as many of the Moose Jaw members as possible visit Regina for a dance to be held by the Regina branch on December 1st.

The boys from Regina left Moose Jaw with the feeling that they had real friends in that city and that the object of the association, "To unite fraternally all post office clerks . . ." had become a real live object to the two branches.

The Regina branch are anxious to solve one question in connection with their trip to Moose Jaw, "Why did Wilbert stay behind?"

#### THE SHOPPING HABIT.

One of those dear old ladies who are the cause of so many suicides among store clerks, recently approached the stamp wicket. Glaring at the clerk with her Young-man-I-am-one-of-your-best-customers look, she asked, "Do you sell postage stamps?" The clerk admitted that he did and asked what she wanted. He was met with the query, "What kind do you keep?" and upon informing her, was told, "I should like to look at some red ones if you have them in stock." The clerk, thinking to impress the old lady, flourished before her gaze a sheet of two cent stamps, whereupon the old dear, gazing at it, said, "Yes, they are very nice," and, pointing to one in the middle of the sheet, "I think I'll take that one."—Regina.