

*Supply—Post Office**(Translation):*

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, if parliamentary procedure allows a new member of parliament to offer his congratulations to a new Postmaster General, I wish to do so with all my heart. Mr. Minister, the congratulations I extend to you this evening are not the result of a general formula. These are fraternal congratulations I bring to you, for they come from your Acadian cousins. Although they did not know you personally, they had heard a lot about you. It is therefore with pleasure, Mr. Minister, that I bring to you, on behalf of my compatriots, a fraternal message and that I extend to you the congratulations of my fellow citizens from New Brunswick.

Mr. Chairman, it is fortunate, at least in so far as the affairs of my county are concerned, that a new minister should head the important Post Office Department. As I anticipate friendly relations and sincere co-operation between the new Postmaster General and the new member for Gloucester, I believe I can also anticipate effective results.

Tonight, I want to submit to the Postmaster General three specific and concrete cases concerning Gloucester county.

First, Mr. Chairman, there is the case of the post office at Petit Rocher, in Gloucester county. May I draw the Postmaster General's attention to the fact that Petit Rocher is one of our large Acadian parishes on the shores of Chaleur bay, some twelve miles from Bathurst. On June 18 last, I placed a motion on the order paper, requesting a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, reports, and petitions sent to the department in connection with the opening of a central post office at Petit Rocher. I have not yet received that information.

As I know that district very well, I take the liberty of drawing to the minister's attention the fact that for the past several years the people of Petit Rocher, at the initiative of the parish priest, the chamber of commerce, industrialists and merchants, have been requesting that something be done to remedy the unfortunate situation prevailing in that village. The post office is located at one end of Petit Rocher, while the church, the rectory, the station and the wharf, near which stand a lobster-packing factory and a cold storage, stores, the co-operative, the office of the credit union, in one word the very centre of the village, located within a radius of approximately half a mile, is far away from the post office. The result is that the people are asking for, and rightly so, the establishment of a central post office in the centre of

[Mr. Coldwell.]

the village of Petit Rocher. Therefore, as the representative of those people, I beg the new Postmaster General to receive their request with sympathy and I do hope that he will give his immediate attention to this matter which has been kept in abeyance for years in the department's files. I thank the minister in advance for his kind attention.

The second matter I want to bring to the attention of the minister is in connection with the post office at Shippegan. In January last, this post office was declared vacant and applicants were sought to fill the post.

I have here in my hand the civil service commission's requisition, dated January 25, 1952.

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): You mean a competition?

Mr. Robichaud: Yes, a competition. On March 3, 1952, certain people interested in this competition were advised that it had been cancelled. Now—and I hope I am in order in doing this—I would like to ask the hon. minister whether he is in a position to give me all the details concerning the post office at Shippegan.

First of all, what were the reasons for advertising a competition for appointment of an employee in that post office? Second, why was this competition cancelled? Third, what is the present status of the present post office attendant at Shippegan?

In brief, I would like the hon. minister to tell me if the policy of his department consists in retaining the services of an assistant to the postmaster of a large rural community like Lameque on Shippegan island, whose people have been demanding that their postmaster be given an assistant.

Mr. Chairman, those are the three questions I wanted to put to the Postmaster General. I hope that he will provide me, before it is too late, with the information I require.

(Text):

Mr. Low: Mr. Chairman, I do want to take just a minute or two to add my voice to those who have spoken on behalf of the rural mail couriers. As I travel through the great north country I hear a great many complaints about the contract system of tenders, and I have received a good many suggestions. Many of the mail couriers feel that it would be wiser if in the office of the divisional inspector some committee might be set up to assist the inspector to consider each mail route on its merits and allot some definite charge per mile for the carrying of the mail on those specific routes. The charges would have