

*Supply—Post Office*

masters, to the rural mail carriers, to the postmen in the cities and to anyone connected with the government service. I do not do this with the idea of looking for trouble, but to try to get the viewpoint of the employees and to learn more about the operation of the department and possibly some of those things that could be improved within the department itself.

In that connection I want to deal with a few things that were brought to my attention by the employees of the postal department in my constituency. I saw quite a number of them. First of all I found in some quarters complaints about the rules on appeals for promotional examination. The complaint was based on the ground that seniority, length of service, experience and qualifications do not, I understand, constitute grounds for appeal. I bring that to the attention of the minister because there was considerable dissatisfaction amongst a number of good employees.

Second, I found in some post offices that the local postmaster sits as chairman of the examining board for promotions in his own office. I found quite a number of employees, both those working in the post office and those carrying the mail, who complained against this. These employees complained that this makes personal preference and favouritism possible. They think the minister should be advised of this, and I believe there is some merit in it. They were complaining of the fact the local postmaster sits as chairman of the examining board that deals with promotions in the office itself.

The third complaint was one I heard on several occasions, that the observations and suggestions of post office inspectors, as well as other officials, are overruled or ignored by some postmasters with regard to the proper carrying on of staff meetings and the reorganization of mail routes, and sometimes with respect to internal arrangements. I just bring these matters to the attention of the minister because I promised these employees to do so. They are the type of employees who are not given to making frivolous complaints, so I would like him to have that situation investigated.

I want to deal for a moment or two with what I call the peculiar case of the *Toronto Weekly Star* which retails in Ontario for 10 cents a copy and in British Columbia for 15 cents a copy. There is a 1 cent provincial tax. The excuse given by the *Toronto Weekly Star* is that this cost to the purchaser there is brought about by postage rates when, as a matter of fact, I understand the postage rates to a point in Ontario and a point in British Columbia are the same, 4 cents per pound for this type of material.

[Mr. Herridge.]

There is no doubt about it, the Post Office Department loses very heavy revenue by reason of these very low rates on certain types of magazines, papers and things of that sort. I think the house agreed to this proposal in order to facilitate the distribution of papers, magazines and literature. I wonder if the *Toronto Weekly Star* publishers are doing their part in this respect when they charge their British Columbia subscribers 15 cents a copy when they can send it to British Columbia for exactly the same price as they can send it to a point in Ontario. I should like the minister to comment on that point.

I have been asked by quite a number of my constituents and people in southern British Columbia generally to deal with another topic. I want to make a few comments on the wildlife series of stamps. Let me say, first of all, that I am very glad to know there is a wildlife series of stamps, because I think it is an excellent theme for a stamp. I think we have been a bit unfortunate to date, if one judges from the examples I have seen. This matter has been raised in the house by the hon. member for Notre Dame de Grace and one or two others.

I would not base my opinion entirely upon the statements of members in this house, because they might possibly be tinged with a political flavour. I have based my opinion on the opinions of people in British Columbia who hold very important positions. I realize the difficulty of transferring a drawing accurately to an engraving, and the difficulties of engraving certain subjects. However, I want to suggest that even Borneo produces a series of wildlife stamps which are masterpieces compared with those produced in Canada. I have some of them in my possession.

I am not blaming the artists or anyone, but possibly we could investigate some of the processes the people use in other countries where they have been successful in engraving subjects that are quite difficult. I know that in some of the Asian countries they use wildlife studies on their stamps quite frequently, and they are really works of art. I suggest that there should be some inquiry made to see whether we cannot bring our Canadian stamps up to the standard of those engraved in Borneo.

I want to illustrate that we are not just complaining members of the house. Here is a letter that was written in Ottawa about the goat stamp. We have all heard about it. I was interested in it before because there are some wild goats in my constituency—four-legged ones—and I know what they look like because I have been out hunting. The letter reads:

Those who dislike the "goat" stamp have only to reverse it to see displayed an elder statesman,