

Q. How many inside, and how many outside?—A. A little over 1,000.

Q. 1,000 inside?—A. Yes.

Mr. GRIESBACH: I suppose we all know the distinction between the inside and outside service.

By the Chairman:

Q. You understand that the outside service means all the employees outside of Ottawa?—A. Yes.

Q. Now we will be very glad to hear your views?—A. So far as the Civil Service Commission is concerned, we are getting on well with it, other than the necessary trouble that takes place in organization, small things that are required, or mistakes at first. We are getting on very well. It works with our department perfectly. It is really the same system as prevailed before. In regard to the outside service, the only objection we have at all is in regard to the rural postmasters. There is some objection to that. There is great objection on the part of a majority of the members to the fact that while they are vitally interested, they do not have any say in the selection of postmasters.

By Mr. Johnston:

Q. Who makes that objection?—A. A great many of the members have made that objection.

By Mr. Griesbach:

Q. Members of Parliament?—A. Yes, and the people do not believe that the postmasters are appointed without the connivance of the member. The result is he is very much blamed, and he grows restless under the criticism. They refuse to believe his action in the matter is sincere. There is also some objection on the question of delay, especially in regard to accounting officers. A man may be discharged in the Money Order Office, and each community dependent on it is cut off, and that leads to delay in appointing a man and to a great deal of public inconvenience. In regard to the rapidity, it is not more rapid, and probably is not as rapid as the old system, nor is it anywhere superior to the old system.

By the Chairman:

Q. That is in the making of appointments?—A. In the appointment of rural postmasters we do not think there is any improvement, and there are those objections.

By Mr. Argue:

Q. What is your system to-day? Suppose a rural postmaster dies?—A. They notify the department. We immediately notify the Commission who communicate with the inspector. Any office over \$1,000 is advertised. Under \$1,000 it is arranged without advertising.

By Mr. Griesbach:

Q. What do you mean by over \$1,000?—A. Revenue.

Q. Where the revenue is over \$1,000?—A. Yes. The advertisement sometimes leads to delay, and the inspector notifies the Commission to instruct us about the appointment and we instruct the postmaster.

By Mr. Argue:

Q. Do you send the inspector out to find a man?—A. If it is an office with over \$1,000, the inspector usually has to visit and see the men who are applicants for it, and that leads to delay and expense.

Q. If it is an office under \$1,000, what happens?—A. Then they arrange it without advertising, and it is done quicker.

[Dr. R. M. Coulter.]