

time ago insisting on these points being observed by the postmasters.

9. There are no records in the department that any registered letters have gone astray, been lost or misdelivered in the Belleville post office in the last two years.

10. 6,056 letters have been sent in to the Dead Letter Office from the Belleville post office within the last two years for these causes.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER (North Toronto). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask the hon. the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) in what condition are the remaining volumes of the Auditor General's Report.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). Several days ago I had a note from the Auditor General which I sent my hon. friend. He did not give any definite information, but said that he was expediting the work as rapidly as possible. I have had no intimation since then.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE AT ST. HYACINTHE.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Might I ask my right hon. friend the Prime Minister if he would tell us when he intends to appoint a judge at St. Hyacinthe in the place of the late Judge Madore?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes; I think we will appoint him this week.

OTTAWA IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto). Would it be too much to ask that the order in council appointing the Ottawa Improvement Commission might be laid on the table of the House?

Mr. FIELDING. I will see that it is produced.

Mr. FOSTER. In the report of the commission this year, whilst they have given the receipts and expenditures of the current year, they have not given the receipts and expenditures on the whole work up to date. Of course, we can get that by adding the sums in the previous reports, but it would be more convenient if it were given in the report.

Mr. FIELDING. I shall call the attention of the commission to it.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH P.E.I.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES (King's, P.E.I.). I wish to ask the acting Minister of Public Works if he could give me any information with regard to communication by wire,

Mr. LEMIEUX.

or wireless, with Prince Edward Island? Communication by steamer may become irregular, and I would be glad to receive any information on the subject that the minister is prepared to give.

Mr. FISHER. Messages are now being transmitted from the boats of the Marine and Fisheries Department to the Cape Bear Marconi wireless station. This is not a constant communication, because the boats are not always in Pictou harbour, but the moment the boats arrive in Pictou harbour the messages which have accumulated are sent forward. I may say that the government propose to establish a permanent Marconi station on the mainland, so that in case of any such interruption as has occurred an opportunity will be given to have permanent and continuous wireless telegraphic communication with the island. Communications have passed and discussion has been had with the representatives of the Marconi Company for this purpose.

Mr. A. MARTIN (Queen's, P.E.I.). We were told a few days ago that the government had written to the Anglo-American Company which own the submarine cable, but that no reply had been received. It is very singular that no reply should have been received after ten or fourteen days; and if there is a reply, I think we should know its contents, as well as the nature of the communication addressed to the company. These indefinite statements that are made here are not at all satisfactory.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Acting Minister of Public Works). A reply has been received from the company. I have not that reply before me, and would not like, from memory, to give details to the House, but I am quite ready to lay on the table of the House the communications and their reply.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The minister promised, in answer to a question by myself, to state what remedy the government has under the contract against the company in case the service is not maintained.

Mr. FISHER. I am not prepared to state that; I would have to get an opinion from the law officers, which I have not been able to get; and I believe this is a very complicated question.

INSPECTION OF CANNED FOOD PRODUCTS.

House in committee on Bill (No. 33) to provide for the further supervision and inspection of canned food products, meats and fish.—Mr. Fisher.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Minister of Agriculture). In proceeding with this Bill, I wish to state to the committee that I think we may now reasonably take up the sections and adopt them; but before proceeding to that, I would like to say to those