

And to-night as I pen these lines, seven years after, six hundred thousand and more people in the farm homes of Canada will read the newspapers and other mail that the faithful postman has left this day in the mail boxes, standing on the highways of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and this very day also, if that post service had never been, and every day during this titanic conflict that is dragging thousands and thousands of our fairest sons and daughters into the very jaws of death, anxious mothers and fathers, wives and sweethearts, brothers and sisters, and the people generally, would, in the aggregate, be travelling five hundred thousand miles and more to and from the post offices of Canada for the latest news from the battle-fields athwart the sea.

Rural Mail Boxes.

Directly after the Laurier Government decided to install the new post reform, its Postmaster-General, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, went to New York City and gave an order to a firm there for a consignment of rural mail boxes.

If what is said of me, that I was the Generalissimo of the R. M. D. campaign, is a fact, a very natural thing for me to be concerned about was that, keeping reasonable cost in view, the service ought to be best possible. Lemieux's Yankee boxes, big and little, evidently were invented and put on the market, and on the job by people who knew but very little of what a box outfit should be. After making many fool's errands to the Yankee box at my home gate for mail, happening mostly during snow blockades, I resolved to stop all that sort of business. I have in my home here papers containing the signatures of three hundred rural mail carriers at their National Convention, Washington and Detroit, and sixty carriers in Canada, and seven hundred Canadian rural mail patrons, all under the statement that the Wilcox rural mail box outfit is the best adapted to the rural mail service that we have ever seen.

When in 1913 the Ottawa Post Department called for tenders for a supply of rural mail and parcel post box outfits, I offered my invention, accompanied by the list of testimonials, at the price of three dollars each in quantities of 50,000 or 100,000. The New York firm came over to Toronto, organized a company, offered one hundred thousand of their box outfits for 450,000 dollars; they got the contract.

Asked in Parliament why my box was not chosen, Postmaster-General Pelletier said that his deputies who had charge of that department told him that if Mr. Wilcox's box was worth three, the one given the order for was worth six. What he said was reported in the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. The Woodstock Fall Fair was the first opportunity after that to let the public