

to the American Associated Press, was prepared for American readers and was coloured with the bias that too often enters into the minds of American correspondents. When the press of Canada had to rely for their news upon sources of that character, what wonder was it that we occasionally received very curious accounts of what was going on over there with regard to matters with which we ourselves were concerned. There were only two papers in Canada which were in a position to have reports of their own. The Toronto 'Globe' and the Montreal 'Star,' if I remember rightly, were the only two papers which had a regular cable service of their own. I suppose that if they consulted their own individual interests they would have preferred that this arrangement should not have been made, because they were, you might say, in the position of monopolists. They were rich, so to speak, and could afford a service. But, that was not sufficient. We wanted the press generally to have the news of the motherland and we wanted a service which would not be tainted by the anti-British feeling which we found characterizing the news which came to us from time to time by way of the United States. I think that that purpose has to a measurable extent been fairly well accomplished. Under this arrangement we have received, I think, a larger volume of English news of interest to Canada than we have ever received before. The worst that can be said of the service is that occasionally there is an item which does not seem important enough to cable. I have heard men say: What rubbish that is to pay sixpence a word for, but while it was rubbish to one man there were probably some other man, or more likely some women who were deeply interested in that class of news. I do not think the service is perfect. There is some room for criticism, but I think the gentlemen connected with it have honestly endeavoured to give a fair and impartial service, and I am rather disposed to give them a good word and to hope they will do better in the future if they can.

Mr. W. F. McLEAN (South York). The association is absolutely non-political and non-partisan, and the papers connected with it are of both political parties. They have two men in London who have access to the sources of news, who get early copies of all the London papers and have access to the despatches of some of the news bureaus, so that a good and early service is obtained at a comparatively small cost. The news that has been sent here has been of a Canadian character. It was a matter of regret that previous to the establishment of this association the Canadian papers got most of their news through the American association. That news was often anti-British and anti-Canadian and especially

intended for consumption in the American market. An arrangement was made the other day by which a new association in the west becomes connected with this association, and it will get the news. It is true that newspapers who desire to take the news must pay a portion of the cost, but they have to pay for other news, and why not pay for this?

Mr. FOSTER. Do they get a decreased rate?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. There has been a rate made so that most of the western papers can come in. It is hoped that arrangements will be made to take eastern papers in if they cannot stand the present tolls.

Mr. BERGERON. What are the tolls?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Ten cents per word for the cables, and each paper must pay a portion of the land tolls on this side. The market reports supplied by this service are of great interest and importance to those interested in different lines of commerce. There have been mistakes in the service, but that same remark would be true of all such services. The service is a good service; it is a Canadian service; it will be improved. The funds are very carefully administered, the collections are made every month and the newspapers pay dollar for dollar with the government. There is no politics in the association. We hope soon to have it on such a basis that it will be able to take care of itself. If we wish to improve our connection with the old country, if we wish to be more in touch with the mother land, nothing can so much conduce to that end as the establishment of cable lines owned by the governments of Great Britain and Canada, and I throw out this as a hint to the government. One of the postal reformers in England stated the other day that he sees a penny-a-word cable service in sight. I trust that may come, but it can only come by co-operation between the governments. The greatest monopoly in the world to-day is the cable monopoly, which has its headquarters in London, and they have been able to maintain exorbitant cable tolls.

Mr. BERGERON. What about the Marconi system?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I had hoped that by this time the Marconi system would have made good, and I believe that some of our news despatches have come by Marconi. It is true that some of the news bureaus in London, which are also great monopolies, have tried to break down the Canadian Press Association by offering to take charge of the collection and distribution of Canadian news. But no matter how well conducted a news bureau in London may be, our contention is that it is better