

was also present during the time of his predecessor, Sir William Mulock, when arguments very much to the same effect were apparently received with approval, but did not seem to produce much results. I hope that one feature which was brought forward very prominently on both occasions will not be overlooked. That was a feature of the case presented by the outside service which I think had never been presented previously. The representation made was that here in the city of Ottawa, gentlemen, who are called outside service men, who perform work of very great importance, certainly equal in importance, it was represented, to that performed by the gentlemen of the inside service, who work frequently longer hours, who are men, it was represented, of an equal class, and who yet, simply because they occupy one building and the gentlemen of the inside service occupy another, have a distinction made in the salary to which they are entitled. That did seem to me most extraordinary. I do not wish to take up the time of the committee in adding to what has been well said by my hon. friend from St. John and my hon. friend the Postmaster General; but I do hope that when promises are made to deputations by ministers who are apparently convinced by the arguments presented these representations will not be allowed just to pass by without any further notice being taken of them. I am told that there is some intention on the part of the government to appoint a committee of the civil service, the members of which committee would consider the subject and discuss it, and perhaps have an opportunity to present to the ministers the various views of the different sections of the service. I think that sort of thing has been done before, but I believe it has been usual to select the gentlemen forming the committee from what may be called the higher branches of the service and perhaps exclusively from the inside service. It has been suggested—and I think with good reason—that if there is to be any sort of a representative body selected to discuss this question with the minister, the outside service should be represented as well as the inside service. I present that view to the minister and I hope that it will receive his consideration.

Mr. SINCLAIR. It must not be forgotten that a few years ago postmasters throughout Canada were receiving the miserable pittance of about \$1 a month. I refer to the small country postmasters. A few years ago this was doubled, and the minimum salary made \$25 a year. Every one recognized that to be a step in the right direction. Yet we all feel it is still far too small and that, if the revenue of the department can afford it, it would be a very popular and proper move to give these country postmasters more than they are now receiving. I have a letter in my desk from a postmaster who says that he makes

Mr. BARKER.

up some fifty-six mail bags every week and delivers the mail in the district in which he lives, and all the salary he gets is some \$46 a year. The mail arrives late at night and he is compelled to be up through the night to receive it. It struck me that he is put to a great deal of trouble and work for the small sum of \$46. No doubt that is the experience all over the country. I trust therefore that the matter will get the careful attention of the Postmaster General and the government, and be dealt with in a sympathetic way. Many of the postmasters are paid by commission. There is a class who are paid according to the amount of stamps they sell. So that when the rate of postage was reduced from three to two cents, that cut off about one-third of the postmasters' salary. The postmaster, I understand, still receives the same percentage on the two-cent stamp that he formerly received on the three-cent stamp.

Mr. FOWLER. There are more stamps sold now.

Mr. SINCLAIR. My point is that the chances of increased pay were minimized; the business had to increase by one-third before the salary would be equal to the former salary on account of the postage being reduced from three cents to two. I express my sympathy with the movement to increase the salaries of the postmasters.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The remuneration is as follows: Forty per cent is allowed on the first \$800 of revenue; twenty-five per cent on all over \$800 and up to \$10,000; fifteen per cent on all over \$10,000. The minimum salary is \$25 per year. The department is considering this matter at present. The demand is general all over Canada that the salaries of the country postmasters should be increased and I will tackle the question as soon as I am free from the work of the session. I may state to my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Barker) that I will not forget the very strong representations made by the delegation from the outside service. As the Prime Minister pointed out, a committee of three or four members of the cabinet will be formed to listen to the representations that will be made. My hon. friend may rest assured that we will not only listen to the higher officials but to those in the other grades.

Mr. LAKE. There is not a country postmaster in the Northwest who receives anything like an adequate salary. Most of them take the post office from a sense of duty and to be of service to their neighbours. This question should have the fullest consideration of the Postmaster General at an early date. Another matter of pressing importance in the west is the extension of the postal service. We are inviting great numbers of new people into that country and it is our duty to provide them with adequate postal facilities. I regret to say that the