

this year until such time as the car ferry will be in operation?

Mr. HAZEN: That matter has been and is engaging the attention of the Department of Trade and Commerce. I understand that arrangements have been made for a service that will, I trust, be satisfactory, during the period between the opening of navigation at Point du Chene and the time next summer when the car ferry will be in full operation.

Mr. HUGHES: Would the minister say when he expects the car ferry to be in operation?

Mr. HAZEN: I cannot give my hon. friend any definite statement in that regard. I understand it is the belief of the Railway Department that the car ferry will be in operation before the fall—some time during the summer.

Mr. MACDONALD: The minister will agree with me that this was a case in which he was misled by his advisors in my constituency. Those who followed the explanation of the hon. minister have observed that his only excuse for the course taken was that the Longshoremen's Union had been organized only last summer. That excuse is not a good one. The minister has given the promise that in the event of the winter service between the two provinces being carried on next year as it is now, he would be disposed to consider favourably the matter of giving the contract for handling freight and coal to those to whom he ought to have given it this year, to the organized longshoreman, the people who are doing business of that kind at the port. My hon. friend admits that the department had an offer from this Longshoremen's Union. Had he communicated with the agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Pictou he would have been informed that this union was an affiliation of the Longshoremen's Union in the city of St. John, with the union in the city of Halifax, and with the International Longshoremen's union. He would have been informed, also, that that union, as I have already stated, got all the work in connection with large shipments of lumber, with large shipments made by the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal company to the Russian Government, and with shipments of important material which came from various other large industries. Somebody, however, in the county of Pictou, who is handling the patronage along the lines so eloquently condemned by the hon. Minister

of Trade and Commerce the other night, said to my hon. friend: pay no attention to this Longshoremen's union, whose business it is to attend to this work; hand it over to this tailor, this monument builder, and this mason, because they are useful people when election time comes round. I am glad the hon. minister has been frank enough to say that if the opportunity comes again he will see that this difficulty is remedied. These longshoremen, who are devoted to the idea of labour union, and who have wives and families to support, are walking the streets of this seaport town this winter because the men brought in from all over the country by this unique trio to which I have referred are taking the bread out of their mouths. These men are not being given a chance to work simply because they are loyal to union principles. It was suggested to these men: we will give you work, but you must permit an intermediate rake-off of five cents a ton for these three men. They said, no; we will not do that; we will stand by our union. It was open to the minister, who could have cancelled the contract at any time, to give the work to the labour union of the town, the members of which were willing to do the work at the same figures as the trio to which I have referred are receiving to-day. In view of the evidence before us, and of the facts being conceded, I think it is only fair and proper that the minister should deal with this matter at once. During a period of two months more communication with Prince Edward Island will be carried on as it is at the present time, and these men, who make their living around the wharves, will be out of work unless the minister intervenes. I do trust that, as a result of this discussion, the minister will take steps to remedy this injustice.

Motion agreed to.

PICTOU COUNTY MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD moved:

For a copy of all letters, petitions, papers, telegrams, tenders and other documents relating to the establishment of a rural mail route from Alma, through Sylvester and Loch Broom, and as to the closing of the post offices at Sylvester and Loch Broom.

He said: I desire to state briefly to the House the grievance of some six families in my county who have been deprived of any convenient mail service as the result of the establishment of the rural mail route referred to in the motion, which has resulted in the closing of these two post