

to lessen the percentage of deficiencies. Despite largely increased expenditures, the revenues gradually approximated the expenditure after each added outlay has marked a new standard.

That is not exactly what my hon. friend intended.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. That is precisely what I said.

Mr. LENNOX. I shall read it again :

In spite of the largely increased expenditure the revenues gradually approximated the expenditures after each added outlay—

Including the large outlay for rural mail delivery.

—has marked a new standard.

In the year 1899, when the rural mail delivery was introduced, it marked a new standard, and after each one of these standards, the Postmaster General of the United States points out that the revenues have gradually approximated the expenditures.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. No, the hon. gentleman misunderstands the report he is reading. He must read it again. In 1899—the year it speaks about—the vote was \$150,000 for the succeeding year. They only had voted that year \$50,000 in 1898 for rural mail delivery in the United States. What effect could that have on the revenue of the United States post office for 1899? It could not have had the effect of a dollar.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. LENNOX. Hon. gentlemen are very prompt in saying 'hear, hear;' but if those same hon. gentlemen would honestly endeavour to study these questions and do something for the constituencies they represent, instead of from time to time interrupting with their 'hear, hears,' when they know nothing about the question—if they will study the question and then get up and tell the House what they know about it, I should be happy to give way to them, and for the present it will not take them very long to tell what they know. I do not profess to know everything about this matter.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. LENNOX. It is a matter a very few have studied minutely. I do not think that my hon. friend the Postmaster General has shown any very great knowledge of the subject because he was unable to answer even the few questions put him by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) this afternoon. Nor has he been very clear in his elucidations, and it will be quite in keeping for him to take the 'hear, hears' of his followers to heart and study the question. We are asking to have the report of this investigation, which he instituted a year or two ago, laid on the table, so that the country may know what it is, instead of his pigeon-

Mr. LENNOX.

holing it and keeping it as a state secret and then proclaiming of his own mere motion what he shall or shall not do. As to the establishment of rural mail delivery I may say that in 1901 the first large expenditure was made, an expenditure of \$1,750,000.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. That was not in 1901 at all.

Mr. LENNOX. That was the appropriation.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. It was not made in 1902.

Mr. LENNOX. The appropriation was made in 1901 of \$1,750,000.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The hon. gentleman spoke of the expenditure of \$1,750,000 in 1901; I say that the expenditure in 1901 must have been limited to the appropriation for 1901 which was \$540,000.

Mr. LENNOX. The expenditure in 1901 was probably \$450,000, and it will probably be gratifying to the Postmaster General to know that out of that \$450,000 they succeeded in establishing 1,356 rural routes, representing on the average 100 families each, so that when the Postmaster General talks of starting with an expenditure of \$2,000,000 and increasing that to \$25,000,000 in a few years, he shows, what the hon. gentlemen opposite know, that the Postmaster General does not know what he is talking about.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Will the hon. gentleman explain how it was that the expenditure has risen from the year 1900, when it was \$450,000, to the year 1906, the coming year for which the appropriation is \$26,000,000. How could he satisfy the country that we are not likely to press on at an equal speed in expenditure? These figures indicate the use that the people of the United States make of the system; are we not likely to be equally enterprising once we start it?

Mr. LENNOX. Now the hon. gentleman is trying to draw one of those fish across the track. We are not dealing with that question at all. It would be quite competent for the Postmaster General to tell us what he would do in this matter, but I am not here to outline a policy for the Postmaster General. I tell him that they have been extending their rural postal service at the rate of 700 routes a month, and that they have been answering the demands of the people in the interests of the people as they believe very rapidly, and beginning with a modest appropriation they have got up to \$26,000,000 and they have still a very small percentage of expenditure for the rural service as compared with the city service.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. This whole \$26,000,000 is for the rural service, not for the city service. Does the hon. gentleman