

Minto, respectively, at Pictou, during the past season while on the winter service?

Mr. HAZEN: The quantity of coal supplied the Earl Grey and Minto, from the 28th November to the 28th February, is as follows: Earl Grey, 2,947½ tons; Minto, 947¼ tons. No accounts have yet been received for March.

Mr. MACDONALD:

1. How many tons of freight were loaded on board the Dominion Government steamers Earl Grey and Minto, respectively, at Pictou during the past winter service season?

2. How many tons of freight were delivered at Pictou by the Dominion Government steamers Earl Grey and Minto during the past winter service season?

3. What was the amount paid at Pictou for labour in connection with the said boats during months of February and March last?

Mr. HAZEN:

1 and 2. Earl Grey: Loading coal, 3,934½ tons, loading and discharging freight, 7,137 631/2000 tons. Minto: Loading coal, 1,909 tons; loading and discharging freight, 2,649 461/2000 tons.

3. \$4,356.25.

THE CANADIAN MENACE.

*Mr. PROULX:

1. Have the Prime Minister and the Postmaster General received a copy of the following resolutions which appeared in the Montreal Gazette of the 25th April, 1914, as having been adopted at a recent meeting of the County Lodge of Montreal Loyal Orange Association:—

Resolved,—That this Montreal County Lodge of the Loyal Orange Association, having learned of the action of Hon. Mr. Pelletier, Postmaster General, in prohibiting the Canadian Menace being sent through the mails, views such action with alarm and feels that if such action is allowed to pass, other periodicals may also be banned; be it resolved, therefore, that this County Lodge protests against the action of the Postmaster General as encroaching upon the liberty of the subject as well as the press, and calls upon all Orange lodges in the Dominion to pass similar resolutions.

Further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Right Hon. Mr. Borden, Prime Minister; Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General, and the local members of the federal Parliament.

2. Has the Canadian Menace been granted the use of the mails? If so, since when?

Mr. PELLETIER:

1. Yes, and it has been answered as follows:

Postmaster General, Canada.
Ottawa, April 27, 1914.

Sir,—

I have duly received your letter of the 25th instant, with reference to the privileges of the mails having been withdrawn from The Menace.

In reply, I beg to give you the departmental reasons for the action taken in regard to this publication.

[Mr. Macdonald.]

The transmission by mail of letters, newspapers, etc., is authorized and permitted under a law which is known as the Post Office Act. A special department has been created over which the Postmaster General presides, and its duties and business are clearly defined.

Under that law, which is equally binding on both you and me, as Canadian citizens, the Post Office Department becomes the carrier for the transmission of correspondence and for all matter defined as mailable, but for nothing else.

That law gives to the citizens the right to use this mode of transmission for their correspondence and newspapers, provided they pay the statutory postal rates, but this statute imposes upon the Postmaster General a clear and well defined duty.

This duty is to follow and obey the law which has created the Post Office Department and the regulations which are based on the law.

What do we find in the law and in the regulations? In clear and unequivocal terms, they oblige the Postmaster General to consider as non-mailable matter and consequently to exclude from the mails:

1. Explosives and dangerous substances.

2. Letters upon the outside or upon the envelope of which there are words, devices, etc., tending to injuriously affect the social or commercial standing of the persons addressed.

3. Letters and circulars concerning illegal lotteries or other similar enterprises.

4. Communications concerning schemes and devices, intended to deceive and defraud the public.

5. Pamphlets containing recipes or prescriptions with the pretended object of procuring abortion, etc.

6. Publications, matters or things of an indecent, immoral, seditious, disloyal or scurrilous character.

These duties are imposed upon me. Can I shirk them for the reason of free speech which you allege?

I am sometimes told (because we often exclude some of these prohibited things, most of them being French publications of an obscene character) that I should allow such matters to pass through our mails and then bring criminal action.

In the first place, I have nothing to do with criminal proceedings. This is another remedy placed in other hands. This other remedy is cure. The one imposed upon me is prevention, and we all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

At all events, the law and the regulations do not tell me that I should institute criminal proceedings after the fact. It enjoins upon me the obligation to act before the fault is committed, in order to prevent these things from passing through our mails.

You have a right to say that the law and regulations are bad. They may be good or they may be bad; but they have existed for many years. They have been applied very often and have always been considered very good and proper. So long as they exist they must be obeyed. Am I right or wrong in this?

Public censors are by law authorized to prevent immoral and indecent plays from being put before the public. In this case, the Post Office Act makes of the Postmaster General a