

this young man cannot claim the reward he is entitled to owing to the rules as they are now. If the Postmaster General intends hereafter to pick out the men in the post office service who are entitled to increases, I will back him up in that. In the meantime I would direct his attention to the case of this man which I have mentioned.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Will the hon. gentleman let me know his name.

Mr. MACLEAN. Yes.

Mr. BENNETT. The Postmaster General missed the point of my inquiry. I asked, what special services Mr. Lindsay has been affording the country in the past few months. The people of the riding I represent have a commendable amount of curiosity, and they peruse the public accounts with the greatest possible avidity. For instance, they find in this wonderful work—the author of which I would name, if I were able to give him all the credit due for his curiosity in probing it out—they find one contract which was cancelled, and in the carrying out of which, in all kinds of wind and weather a man travelled 32 miles a day with a team of horses for part of the year, for the princely remuneration of \$1.50 a day. The Postmaster General, having regard to how far a dollar goes in this country, and the little opportunity that is afforded a man for honest employment, thought that \$1.50 a day for a man and one horse, and two horses part of the year, was altogether too much. I think he has been successful in securing the services of a man and a horse to travel the 32 miles for \$1.15 a day. This is a very curious man whose contract was cancelled, and he has written me for a copy of the Public Accounts showing the salaries paid, and I will be bound to say, that with that curiosity which dominates in him since his contract has been cancelled, he will want to know how it was that the Postmaster General thought that \$1.50 a day was too much for a man with a pair of horses, whilst \$7 a day was not sufficient for Mr. Lindsay. I am not complaining that Mr. Lindsay is getting too much, but if the Postmaster General is in on a streak of economy, surely there are several ways in which it might be practised instead of cutting down the services of a man and two horses in this way. It is true the Minister has got the work done for \$1.15 per day instead of \$1.50, but as it is equally true, that as the new contractor is a good Liberal he tendered low on the expectation that he would get an advance, and an application has already been made to me as to the means and ways he will get that advance. The Postmaster General I expect will have that contract on his hands in a short time. It is but fair for the Postmaster General to tell the House what special services Mr.

Mr. MACLEAN.

Lindsay and Mr. Smith have rendered to entitle them to be picked out for increase to their salaries. I have nothing to say against Mr. Lindsay. I have known him for the past five or six years as a most courteous and obliging official, but his department is largely routine work, and I think he was well paid for it at a salary of \$2,100.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The mail contracts in charge of Mr. Lindsay involve an annual expenditure of nearly \$900,000, and they amount in number to between eight and nine thousand. During the past year, we have renewed about 600 contracts.

Mr. SPROULE. Renewed or re-let?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Renewed, after advertisement and tender.

Mr. SPROULE. They were re-let.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Very well. In addition to that work Mr. Lindsay has a great many other details in connection with this branch. There are constant applications for new services and for changes of route, and it is more or less an intricate branch of the service of which he has made a study. He has the mail service of the country at his finger ends, and his services to the department are extremely valuable. Without him it might take at least a couple of efficient men to do the work which he does. The vote before the House is for extra service during the past year, and I may say that Mr. Lindsay with Mr. Smith, has returned to the department almost every night and remained there until midnight. They return back practically every night to the department—he and Mr. Smith; and I think they are certainly well entitled to the small allowance I ask the committee to let them have.

Mr. HAGGART. I have not a word of objection to the amounts given to these three officers; but I think the Postmaster General has made a mistake in selecting three, and his action cannot but excite jealousy in the department. If he had made these increases on some principle, there might have been some justification for them. I have not a word to say against the increases to Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Smith. I know Mr. Smith to be one of the best officers in the department; I know that the Auditor General was anxious to get his services. But we do not find any increase proposed for Mr. Matheson or for Mr. Everett, two heads of branches of the department, and most efficient officers in any civil service in the world. I do not know of any offices requiring more efficiency or more inventive skill than those presided over by these two gentlemen. It must cause jealousy among the officers in the department to see special increases granted to these three officers.