

3. Is the site purchased, and at what price?
4. Who was the owner of it?
5. Who was the agent who would be employed to purchase the site?
6. Were the military authorities of Montreal consulted?
7. What commission has been or will be paid to the agent?
8. Has the agent who sold the site acted in the name of the owner or of a person who lent his name for the purpose??

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria):

This matter is under consideration.

CONTRACT FOR TIES.

Mr. LEMIEUX:

1. Has the Minister of Railways and Canals given any contract for ties at Sayabec, county of Rimouski? If so, what is the name of the contractor?
2. What is the amount of said contract, if any?
3. Have tenders been called for?

Mr. COCHRANE:

1. Yes. Edouard Smith and Hedwidge Boulay.
2. Edouard Smith, 10,000 cedar ties at 35 cents each. Hedwidge Boulay, 10,000 cedar ties at 35 cents each.
3. Yes. Tenders were called on August 5, 1911, by newspaper and poster advertisement.

COMMERCIAL AGENT IN FRANCE.

Mr. LEMIEUX

Is it the intention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce to appoint a commercial agent in France to succeed to Mr. Anatole Poin-dron?

Mr. FOSTER (Toronto North). To the question of the hon. member the answer of the Minister of Trade and Commerce is: no.

MAGDALEN ISLANDS NEWS SERVICE.

Mr. HAZEN. The day before yesterday my hon. friend from Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) asked a question with regard to a wireless news service for the Magdalen Islands, and I promised to obtain some information regarding it. I have now the information, and, if in order, I may say that the Department of Naval Service last year erected a wireless station on the Magdalen Islands, so as to establish communication with Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and also to put these Islands in communication with passing ships and with the various stations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This station is being operated for the department by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada under the same agreement which regulates the operation of other wireless stations in that district. The hon. Postmaster General lately made arrangements

to have a weekly news letter officially prepared for transmission to the Magdalen Islands, and this letter, which will be composed of about 1,000 words, will be forwarded each week via wireless station at Pictou and at the Magdalen Islands, so as to be available for communication at the Islands on each Sunday. The first message sent last week, consisting of 1,738 words, was received at Pictou at 3 p.m. on Friday, February 23, and had been transmitted to the Magdalen Islands station at 6.30 p.m. of the same day. The hon. the Postmaster General could, no doubt, furnish further details of this service.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Perhaps my hon. friend the Postmaster General will state who prepares the letter, and what is the nature of it.

Mr. PELLETIER. The letter is not going to be a political letter, if that is what my hon. friend fears. A newspaper man in Quebec will prepare it. It will consist of a summary of the most important events which have taken place during the week, political and otherwise, but will contain nothing from a party point of view. It will be a simple news service for the public at large. The Islands have been for years, as my hon. friend knows, without any means of communication with the outside world for five or six months of the year, and this service is considered to be a boon to them. The news letter will be read to them from the pulpits of the Catholic churches every Sunday.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. PELLETIER moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole to-morrow to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to amend the Civil Service Act by providing that assistant postmasters in post offices in which the postage collections exceed \$1,000,000 may be paid a minimum salary of \$2,800, with annual increases of \$100 up to a maximum salary of \$3,500, and that, if the Governor in Council so determines, such provision may be made applicable to assistant postmasters appointed prior to the first day of April, 1912?

Motion agreed to.

THE GRAIN ACT.

House in committee on Bill (No. 32) respecting grain.—Mr. Foster (North Toronto).

On sec. 123.—Terminal, Public and Hospital elevators.

Mr. FOSTER. (North Toronto) We had some discussion in the committee with reference to clause 123, and several amendments and suggestions were made. As a consequence I have redrafted the clause,