

House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario.

My Dear Mr. Wilcox:

Your card received stating that you have at last received your mail delivered at your home gate. May you long live to enjoy the fruits of your labors.

G. E. ARMSTRONG.

House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont.

My Dear Sir:

Pray accept my congratulations on the establishment of the Rural Mail Delivery Service. Many thanks for postal card that has just reached me.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Geo. Wilcox, Esq., Springford, Ont.

Opportunity.

The highways were lined with vehicles and people going to the circus. A fellow standing on a soap-box in front of a tent on the outskirts of the town was shouting at the top of his voice, "Come in here and see my monkeys perform." A smart monkey probably, but the people were on their way to a show where there was more to see than a lone monkey's pranks. It was not an opportune time for his business; the campaign for Rural Mail Delivery, however, was in a different fix—the season was opportune. I firmly believe though, as subsequent events make plain, if that opportunity had not been seized upon the country people of Canada would still be putting up the same old tramp to the post office as of yore. Freer trade with the U. S. question and the war would have relegated R. M. D. to the scrapheap for years to come. However, British trade preference, Hudson Bay Railway, St. Lawrence navigation and other public questions was on tap, but by degrees they were sidetracked largely and made to give right of way to the rural post reform, and so in 1908 it became the principal plank in the platform of both political parties, as is obvious by the cartoons and other evidences in this book, and also as readers of the newspapers of those days will recall. It was the trump card sure. Laurier's R. M. D. for a starter proposed to give it only to families living on or near existing stage routes running between the different post offices. Borden was for installing the system up and down the concession in all thickly-settled communities. Borden lost the 1908 election, but in 1911 he and the sort of delivery that I was "putting up a fight" for got their innings.