

cuss the general Estimates. In fact, it gives the Government the opportunity of knowing what the complaint is and what the defence is.

Mr. BOWELL. The complaint which has been made by the member for Quebec Centre (Mr. Langelier) will be enquired into. Did I understand him to say that these people were carried free on these trains?

Mr. LANGELIER. I had not finished my remarks, but I stated that one train was started from the east and one from the west to come to Rimouski, and I saw dozens of people, who were supposed to be in favour of the Minister of Militia, who showed me the kind of pass they had to go over that railway. They had not paid one cent, and they told me that hundreds of other people, in fact all the other people who were there attending the meeting, had been passed in the same way. I venture to say that no record has been made of the passes to travel on those trains. I was shown the pass they had, and it was a little piece of white paper with a hieroglyphic written on it by a Conservative wirepuller, and that is what dozens and dozens of people showed me as having passed them on board that train. I would like to have the information, because I desire to find out how much these two excursion trains paid to the Government. There were hundreds of people on these trains. There were many other special trains during the election, and I do not know what they paid to the Government, but I am speaking especially of those that came to the large meeting which was held at Rimouski a few days before the election. I do not know if any of these people paid, but all those that I saw told me they had these passes. I think it would be very important to find out how these trains were managed.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I can see that the hon. gentleman could not read these mysterious signs on that little bit of paper which he refers to as a pass for the friends of the Conservative party to travel free on the Intercolonial Railway. I did not see any of these pieces of paper, these pieces of ordinary paper with an extraordinary sign, and it appears to be extraordinary that the friends of the Conservative party should have selected the hon. gentleman (Mr. Langelier) to display these passes to when I saw nothing of them. I had complaints—and the hon. gentleman will understand that in the midst of an election fight many of your friends expect you to do more than you can—from many of those who came, as the hon. gentleman truly says, from the east and from the west on those two special trains, that they could not be admitted on either of those trains without having to pay their fare. It was stated to me that orders had been issued by Mr. Schreiber or Mr. Pottinger—I will not be sure which—that every man should pay special rates, which meant excursion rates. I am positive of that, and that complaints were made in regard to their having to pay anything, and that was especially the case on that day to which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Langelier) refers, when he and his friends were at that meeting at Rimouski. I did not see the mysterious white papers allowing the friends of the Conservative party to travel free. All I know is that my friends complained to me that strict orders had been issued that they must pay, and they said: You being in the Government, it seems to us very natural that you should be able to pass your friends

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

free. I said it was impossible, that I had nothing to say to the chief engineer who had the management of that road, and, as far as those I saw were concerned, I can say that they had tickets, but I do not know what colour the tickets were or what was on them.

Mr. MULOCK. Did they pay for the tickets?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I cannot say. Certainly they did not pay me.

Mr. LANGELIER. It would be well, before we come to this question in the main Estimates, to have a statement of how many special trains went in there during that election, from what places the trains ran, how much each train cost and how much it earned?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I intimated to the Minister before that I desired to know the total amount of coal transported from the Spring Hill collieries over the Intercolonial Railway, and the rate per ton per mile which was charged.

Mr. BOWELL. I will get the information, as well as that for the hon. member for Quebec, and will state the result when we come to these items in the main Estimates.

Deficiencies in the Estimates for 1890-91 caused by the increase in the rate for mail service over the Canadian Pacific Railway, between Montreal and Vancouver..... \$75,000

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If, as is quite likely, there will be a long discussion on that subject, it might be well for the Minister to state now in such reasonable detail as will partly explain it, the cause of this additional sum of money being required. In that case, I dare say the general discussion can be allowed to stand, on the understanding that it will be brought up at an early date as the discussion will be brought up on the Intercolonial Railway.

Mr. HAGGART. The detailed explanation might occupy a considerable time. This is simply an increased allowance for the carrying of the mails on the Canadian Pacific Railway, making the amount \$105 a mile on the full length of the road per annum. The payment before was at the rate of 12 cents per mile.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The present arrangement is to pay \$105 a mile on the whole of the main line?

Mr. HAGGART. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. For what length of time does that last?

Mr. HAGGART. Until it is changed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What notice must you give to change it?

Mr. HAGGART. We can change it at any time—three months, I think.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Can you change it at a month's notice?

Mr. HAGGART. I think so.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Then I would ask that, before this comes up again, and at the earliest convenience of the Postmaster General, he might lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Order in Council fixing this rate, and that he might append to that the regulations showing the cost last year under the 12 cents per train mile rate.