

western papers should get some benefit from the voting of this large sum of money.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the minister if he can give the House any information as to how this is operated in London. Have they correspondents all over the world, or all through the empire, and do these correspondents give their news direct or is there one man in London who culls the papers and gives what he thinks is best for Canada? I would like to ask also whether there has been any offer from other agencies, or from any agency, which has correspondents all over the empire looking to the giving of further correspondence, telegraphic and otherwise, from the seat of each event, gathering it, and putting it into the news columns of this association? I have heard some very strong criticisms in reference to this service. The service does not appear to have met with public approval. I do not know what the reason is. Is it that they have one or two persons in London and that we are dependent entirely upon that sort of culling of the general news of the world?

Mr. FIELDING. I do not think that the Canadian Associated Press pretend to keep correspondents all over the world. They have one or two correspondents in London who have, I believe, access to the sources of news there. As to just what those sources are I am not clear; at all events, they are able to send very correctly all the news which they believe it is suitable to send, some of which, I admit, has been the subject of criticism. My hon. friend asks whether any proposition has been made by any other body. I have not had presented to me any proposition in the form of a written document, but I have had communications with representatives of the famous Reuter agency whose service is world-wide, suggesting that perhaps they could give a service which would be as good as or better than that which is being given. My answer was that that was a matter which the government could not undertake to control and that we did not propose to organize such a service.

Mr. BERGERON. We pay.

Mr. FIELDING. We pay but we do not want to have anything to do with the management of it. My hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) suggests that the service might probably be too favourable to the government. I have taken the position that the government should have nothing to do with the management of it. When people have written to me complaining of the nature of the telegrams which have been sent and suggesting that the government should do this, that or the other thing, my answer has been that the government did not undertake to dictate to this service. All we do

Mr. A. A. McLEAN.

is to help the Canadian press to get this service. We have been given to understand that they desire this service, but if they do not want it we do not desire to dictate to them or to interfere with its management. We do not desire to say what shall be the nature of this service, and least of all would we say how it should deal with any matter affecting the government.

Mr. BERGERON. Last April, when the bond issue of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was being put on the money market, that same association telegraphed over here that the whole issue had been subscribed, when as a matter of fact only eighty per cent had been taken up.

Mr. FIELDING. I presume that my hon. friend must have some reason for making that statement or he would not make it. But we will not assume any responsibility for what may be cabled to Canada. We say to the leading journalists of Canada that we would like to help them to get a better service, and if they will form their own organization, select their correspondents, adopt their own regulations and make their own arrangements, we are content that they should do so, but we do not want to have anything to do with the management. Whether they send news favourable or adverse to the government is a matter entirely for them to say. The gentlemen who are connected with the concern in London are not known to have any undue regard for the government, but I would not suggest that they have in any way acted unfairly. My hon. friend from Prince Edward Island (Mr. A. A. McLean) says that this does not do any good to the papers of the west or the east. We cannot insist on the papers in the west or the east coming into this association. It costs money to come into this association. Newspapers have to pay out their own good money to come in. They have to pay the tolls, and if a paper at Charlottetown, Halifax or St. John is not willing to pay the tolls we cannot say to the members of the association that news must be supplied to these papers for nothing. The few papers which do remain in the association have to assume a very serious financial burden. If there were any discrimination, if there were any wrong done to a paper at Charlottetown, Winnipeg or anywhere else, we would not permit it, but in view of the fact that the service is open to them upon the same terms as to other papers in the Dominion of Canada, I think that is all we can ask. As to the general purpose of the service I am satisfied that it is a good one. Everybody must admit that the news which we got from the mother country and the European news generally, but particularly that which came from Great Britain, and which came