

he was informed, on very credible authority, that Mr. Ellis was now carrying on this business with the aid of two assistants taken from the office of the paper.

MR. HUNTINGTON said with regard to two returns mentioned by the hon. member for Charlevoix, that if collusion had existed which resulted in the withdrawal of tenders, this was very improper. In any case, where this was known to have occurred, it had been seriously dealt with by the Department. But it might be that the hon. gentleman, unless he had heard the details by means of a telegram, had been misinformed, as party feeling was very high in Charlevoix County. The Department, however, had no knowledge of it. If the facts were as mentioned, \$500 had been lost to the Department. As to the St. Lawrence service, the experiment had been made of sending the mails over the Grand Trunk, and of ferrying them over to Murray Bay. This was believed to be a very great convenience. The sum of \$2,000 was paid to the Grand Trunk Company in this relation, and this source appeared to be a very great advantage. The land service did occasion some inconveniences; but the hon. gentleman had made the case out a deal worse than it was. They would have had to send the despatches to the Governor General at Tadousac all the same if the steamers had been running, but this special service only occurred once, and it was a matter of no consequence. The hon. gentleman said that according to the report of the Inspector they had made a bargain with Martin to pay \$12 for the round trip and to give another man \$4 for the round trip to be continued for thirty-three months, and had not advertised for tenders. The period was short, and if they had so advertised, the hon. gentleman would have complained that no work had been performed. The thing was quite impossible, and this complaint fell to the ground. The hon. gentleman's statement showed that the service performed below by steamer was not a daily service; and they were now seeking to supply a daily service as far as Murray Bay. The Department was

compelled to admit that the service to Murray Bay was not satisfactory. It was an experiment. They thought that the steamers might take the mail for a reasonable price as far as Murray Bay, but the steamers would not do it. They charged at the same rate for carrying mails from Murray Bay as from Quebec. Therefore he could not make any arrangement with regard to the postmaster at Quebec East.

MR. CARON asked whether arrangements had been made with the Montreal, Ottawa, and Occidental Railway to carry the mails over that line.

MR. HUNTINGTON said no arrangement had been made nor any negotiations entered into.

MR. DECOSMOS asked why there was a decrease of \$10,000 in the Estimates for postal service in the Province of British Columbia; why the contractor for the mail service between Victoria and Nanaimo had been allowed to throw up his contract, and whether that contract had been given out without calling for tenders; whether it was intended to fulfil the treaty with British Columbia as to steam service between San Francisco and Victoria; and whether the Government proposed continuing Mr. Bernard as mail-carrier between Yale and Cariboo, without calling for tenders.

MR. HUNTINGTON said, with regard to the \$10,000, the Government had estimated for \$10,000 last year, more than they expended. With regard to the second enquiry, the contractor could not fulfil his contract, and the inspector recommended the Government to give it to another steamer which was done. As for Bernard, he did not exactly know what to do with him, and would consult with the hon. gentleman about it. The treaty with British Columbia for mail service was not a matter connected with his Department, but there was no change in the policy that he knew of. The correspondence between Victoria and Puget Sound was not completed, but he hoped it would be in a few days.

Vote agreed to.