

who are now anxious and waiting to accept it, will represent considerably more than a majority of the letter-carriers. They have been misled or frightened, and have not therefore profited as they might have done by the Act. That does not affect their legal right in the case of sick-pay, for they have no such legal right. My hon. friend from Brant (Mr. Heyd) stated that nothing in the law entitled letter-carriers or any other members of the civil service to pay when absent, for whatever cause, unless they are employed under the statute; and if there is any class that the public expect to be on hand for the performance of their duty it is the letter-carriers. When one makes default it is too late in the morning to appoint a substitute to perform that morning's work. The state of affairs in some parts of the Dominion made it necessary to withdraw any excuse to letter-carriers not to be prompt and punctual in attendance at their duties. If any man comes under this Bill and works faithfully, he is well paid for it—as well paid as any class of workmen in Canada. If, however, they do not wish to avail themselves of this measure, it is entirely their own affair and their own loss.

Mr. MONK. I would take this opportunity of asking the minister if it is a rule in the post office at Montreal and the substations, that when letter-carriers who are ill and who produce satisfactory proof to the postmaster, by a medical certificate or otherwise, that they are ill, they are deprived of their pay?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The rule is, in the first instance, to withhold pay from any one who is absent from duty except during his holidays; the cause of his absence is investigated in the first instance by the officers of the post office in question. They make their report accordingly, furnishing such evidence as bears upon the case, which is transmitted to the Deputy Postmaster General, and he thereupon pronounces upon the case, and decides whether, under all the circumstances, the employee should or should not be granted sick leave.

Mr. HEYD. Is that a matter of law?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. No.

Mr. MONK. That strikes me as imposing upon the minor employees of the department because letter-carriers are minor employees—a very long and difficult procedure in order to obtain pay for periods of illness. I think, in a large place like Montreal where the postmaster is a trustworthy man, he ought to have power to exercise a certain discretion. Now, either the Postmaster General is rather harsh to the minor employees of his department, the letter-carriers in particular—

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I do not think so.

Mr. MONK—or else he is a much maligned man, because in Montreal the letter-carriers are dissatisfied, and those employed in the inside post office are dissatisfied, and it seems to me there is a consensus of dissatisfaction to-day, showing that there must be some grievance. I have already offered the Postmaster General to investigate it with him if he will come down—

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I found the hon. gentleman's statement was entirely without foundation.

Mr. MONK—but the hon. gentleman has never accepted my offer.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I investigated what he said, and found it absolutely baseless.

Mr. MONK. I am still waiting for him to come to Montreal. When I brought up the question some time ago, of these men being obliged to work overtime without extra pay—

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. That is absolutely untrue.

Mr. MONK—my hon. friend at that time caused to be placed in the post office at Montreal, as I am informed, in a conspicuous place, a notice that nobody should work overtime—that is the information I have—when I brought up the question of overtime-work a notice was given that nobody should be called upon to work overtime. Well, I think nobody should be called upon to work overtime. I think that notice was quite proper. But I think circumstances may arise—

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. That is not the tenor of the notice.

Mr. MONK—that is the tenor, according to the information given to me—

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. My hon. friend is misinformed.

Mr. MONK—that no person should work overtime. I think there are circumstances where letter-carriers and minor employees, sorters, may be called upon to work overtime. That is done in every country. In the United States the postmaster who makes them work overtime without making them an allowance as extra pay is liable to dismissal. That is a rule which my hon. friend, if he has at heart the interest of the men, should make one of the regulations of his department. Let me give him one instance, that is the case of Mr. Henry Goodrick, who resides at Mount Royal Vale, and was employed as a letter-carrier by the Post Office Department for six years.

There never was a complaint against him, there never was a reprimand. He had walks, as they call them, in Montreal and vicinity and nobody had any complaint to make against him. He resigned and I called for a return of all the papers connected