

Mr. VENIOT: The object is to have the mails carried over on Saturday so that the people may not have to wait until Tuesday before having them distributed.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): I understand that, and it is a move in the right direction.

Mr. VENIOT: Why not give credit for it?

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): I am willing to give the Postmaster General all the credit he cares to take for it, but I am advocating something better. The present arrangement is not sufficiently satisfactory. I want to see established an air service at the capes which will be always ready to transport mails and passengers when the ferry is tied up.

Mr. VENIOT: Mails and passengers?

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): Mails and passengers, yes. It would be a comparatively cheap service; it is only a few miles.

Mr. ROBB: Free passes.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): No, we do not want free passes; what we want is service. The Minister of Finance may smile as much as he likes, but this is a serious matter with us.

Mr. VENIOT: You are getting a service now which is not costing anyone a cent. It is perfectly free, paid for by the government.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): Who else would pay for it?

Mr. VENIOT: The persons who receive the mails by this means should pay extra. It is done everywhere else, but we do not get a cent from the people of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. BENNETT: It is only a substitute mail.

Mr. VENIOT: It is a service Charlottetown asked for.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): We know very little about it because as a matter of fact it started only last week.

Mr. VENIOT: That is right. They asked for it last week and they received it within forty-eight hours of the request.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): I hope the Postmaster General will be as prompt in giving the full service we now ask for.

Mr. VENIOT: If the requirements demand it you will get it.

Mr. MACDONALD (Kings): I wish now to refer to the question of the subsidies paid in connection with the steamboat service between

the mainland and the province. For steamboat communication between Charlottetown and Pictou \$35,000 is paid. I have no objection to this, but there is another service for which a subsidy had been voted for upwards of forty years and which was dropped last year for the first time. This is an important service, much more needed than that between Charlottetown and Pictou, and yet not a dollar is being voted for it. It is highly important for this reason, that there are a number of places such as Murray Harbour, Lower Montague, Newport and several other points which are a long distance from any railway, some of them fifteen and sixteen miles away. Heretofore there has always been a service connecting these points with the mainland, but the vote was dropped a year ago. Yet last year \$10,000 was added to the Charlottetown service which, I say, is not nearly so important. I plead with the government to re-establish the communication between the eastern part of the province and the mainland and to grant a small subsidy for it.

I wish now to discuss for a moment or two the West Indies trade agreement. I had intended reading an article from the *Maritime Merchant*, a non-political trade journal published in Halifax. The article is devoted to a consideration of this question, but in view of the fact that my time is about up I will not read it. A large amount of money will be expended under this arrangement for which those who have some knowledge of business conditions do not feel that we are likely to get any adequate return. Not only that; we shall probably suffer in the maritime provinces by reason of Cuba's attitude towards Canada in this matter. There will be a considerable expenditure on steamers to carry on the service, and yet the only place in the West Indies where we might secure trade, that is, Cuba, will be closed to us for the reason that under the trade agreement the steamers are not allowed to call at Havana or any other port in that island. We have a very large trade with Cuba, which takes about 3,000,000 bushels of potatoes a year from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and we should like to retain that trade. There is a difficulty, however; we cannot directly say that it is on account of the trade agreement with the British West Indies, but the inference is that that has something to do with the fact that Cuba has put a very heavy duty on our potatoes. It is supposed that this was done in retaliation for the preference granted the British West Indies on sugar. Last year the duty was advanced from 65