

not take on the mails there any more. That is a half remedy, but I would suggest to the Government, now that steamers travel at such great speed, that it would be better to discontinue the practice of landing mails at Rimouski, as very little is gained by it. The mails used to be taken out of the ship, put on a tender, taken off the tender, put on the wharf, from the wharf put on the train, and then carried by train from Father Point to Lévis, a distance of some 180 miles. When the mails arrived there, they had to be taken off the train, put on a truck, taken to the ferry, taken off the truck, put on the ferry, and finally landed. So they did not arrive very promptly after all the expense of running the special train. That practice has been discontinued also, I understand.

The incoming boats are still stopped at Father Point to land the mails for the Maritime Provinces; but the people in the Maritime Provinces get the service only one way by the incoming boats. They do not gain very much by that, because I do not think there is a special train. The Postmaster General may enlighten us on that point. If there is not, the mail has to wait until the train comes from Quebec. The mail might just as well have been left on the steamer and landed with the western mail in Quebec and distributed from there—sent out on the train that passes there a few hours later. And if it is only the incoming mail that comes that way, how does the outgoing mail go from the Maritime Provinces? If the mail comes in by Rimouski it does not go out by Rimouski, because the steamers no longer take on mails there. They must have some way of going out, and surely the way that is good enough for the incoming mail ought to be good enough for the outgoing. That seems to be reasonable. They can surely find a way of shipping every mail, whether it be by the port of New York or by Boston.

There are several steamers leaving the port of New York each week, and the United States Government selects for the carrying of the mail the fastest boat leaving on a particular day. Regardless of patronage or of anything else, the fastest boat that is sailing out of New York gets the United States mail.

There has been a great deal of complaint lately regarding delays of the mails. It is quite usual for a letter to be four weeks coming from the other side—nay, even a whole month. In making inquiries since I gave notice that I would draw attention to this matter, I have learned the reason

from a newspaper called *Le Soleil*, of Quebec. *Le Soleil* is a very important paper; in fact, it occupies in the Quebec district a position equal to that of the *Montreal Gazette* in the Montreal district, having the largest circulation of any paper in the district. A very good paper it is; M. D'Hellencourt, the political editor of that paper, has made a great success of it, and it is certainly a credit to Canadian journalism. This is what I have learned from that reliable newspaper—that the ships bringing soldiers from England, ships chartered and paid for by this Government, have landed the soldiers at Halifax, with their baggage, their arms, and all their paraphernalia; and yet—would you believe it?—they did not land the mails. That is something that is hard to understand. That is my information. I hope the Postmaster General may be able to tell us it is not correct. But I have information and pretty good reason to believe that it is. Everything is landed except the mails, and where do you think the mails are sent after the boat has been at the wharf at Halifax for hours?

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON: To New York?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The honourable gentleman who says New York is quite right. The mails were sent to New York, and from there they were sent by mail all the way to Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, and finally to Halifax. It is no wonder that people have complained of the delay in getting their mails. Four or five days after the letters had been at the wharf at Halifax, where the ship remained for hours, these same letters, having been sent to New York, came back to Halifax. That largely accounts for the delay, and I hope that the mere mention of the matter will be sufficient to have it remedied. There may have been some reason for such delays during the war, perhaps owing to the censor. But the war has been over now for nearly six months and there has been plenty of time to regulate matters. Surely it is not necessary that such delays should continue much longer. I sincerely hope that we shall hear from the Postmaster General that the matter is being remedied and that when ships chartered and paid for by this Government land troops, baggage, etc., at Halifax, they will also take the necessary time to land the mail, instead of sending it away around by New York.

Hon. P. E. BLONDIN: Honourable gentlemen, I beg to inform the honourable gentleman from De Lanaudière (Hon. Mr.