

my hon. friend state that the work on the Champlain station was interrupted in July?

Mr. LACHANCE (Translation): Yes.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Not at all. It was carried on until the snow flew.

Mr. LACHANCE (Translation): I beg the Postmaster General's pardon. I am sure of what I say because in the month of October, I happened to go several times in that locality and the work had been stopped. Besides I lately read in a Quebec paper, *Le Soleil* or *L'Évènement*, but I rather think it was in *Le Soleil* although I am not positive about it, that the work was stopped since the beginning of August.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): No, no.

Mr. LACHANCE (Translation): In any case, one thing is certain, and that is that the work has been stopped, for what reason I do not know, long before the snow flew. In any event, winter came; but that was no reason to interrupt the work.

So then, wretched car-works reduced to one-half their capacity at Saint Malo, and the foundation of an insignificant freight station at Champlain market, such were the only results of three years efforts on the part of the Government towards the building of the Transcontinental railway terminals at Quebec, and are what the Minister of Railways wishes us to accept as sufficient accommodation for the traffic on the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Such was the hopeless and confused tangle in which were the terminals when the Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier) made his exit last fall.

Then a new political star rose on the horizon, and we saluted it with pleasure.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE (Translation): With enthusiasm.

The Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Translation): We shall judge him by his works.

Mr. LACHANCE (Translation): We saluted with pleasure and enthusiasm the new Postmaster General who henceforth is to look after the interests of the Quebec district, and despite our many disappointments his coming inspired us with renewed hope, and the Board of Trade made a further effort. I think the Postmaster General will endorse my statement, when I say that the citizens of Quebec and all interested bodies like the Board of Trade, are not satisfied with the present conditions. He is aware

[Mr. Casgrain.]

how groundless is the statement of the Minister of Railways that present arrangements meet the requirements of the traffic on the Transcontinental. I need only recall that on the 23rd of October last, the president, the two vice-presidents of the Board of Trade, and the Mayor of Quebec had an interview with the Postmaster General at the City Hall. Those gentlemen expressed themselves in the following terms, as shown at pages 116 and 117 of the report:

In June last, Mr. Pelletier and the officers of the Transcontinental, after inspecting the grounds, had promised that the work would be started immediately on the construction of docks and of a grain elevator near Lampson's Cove. As the Transcontinental is completed, and this work is still in abeyance, Quebec is in a difficult position and requests that this work be started as soon as possible.

I also quote a letter of the 24th of November, 1914, to the Postmaster General, which may satisfy the Minister of Railways that the people of Quebec are not as satisfied as he would have had us believe this afternoon. The letter is addressed by Mr. Lévesseur to the Postmaster General.

Dear Sir:

The construction of the Transcontinental railway is practically completed; we may even expect that next May this great railway will be operated all along the line from Winnipeg to Moncton. Unfortunately, Quebec harbour, which is to become the summer terminal for the Transcontinental, is far from being in a position to handle the enormous traffic which our great national railway will carry from the Canadian West to the Canadian harbours. As yet Quebec can offer no terminal facilities; there are no deep water docks in front of the city, and no elevators. The result will of course be as ever it was, that the western traffic on the Grand Trunk Pacific will take the usual road to American harbours.

I also quote to the same effect from a letter written on the 5th of December, 1914, by the president of the board of trade to the Postmaster General:

However, the only facilities now in course of construction at Quebec, are those which are being made at the Louise basin, and they provide a dock area barely sufficient to accommodate three large steamers, and a small elevator with a capacity of one million bushels, which may be reached by the Transcontinental only over the tracks of a rival railway by paying a prohibitive rate. And these facilities are not even sufficient for the traffic of the Canadian Northern which is almost completed.

It is therefore evident that no provision practically has been made here for the export traffic of the Transcontinental railway during the season of navigation on the St. Lawrence, and that immediate attention should be given to that question.

All of which goes to prove that the Board of Trade, in so protesting, was voicing the sentiments of the citizens and continues as