

country sections, and even those in the centres of trade, who were unacquainted with tracing up Acts of Parliament, to understand what the Act as it stood really meant; and he hoped, before this Bill was finally disposed of, that the Postmaster General would consolidate the whole law relating to the postal service. There was another matter which he would like to see somewhat changed that was, the provision which compelled local newspapers to prepay their postage. The House knew, at the present time, people in the rural districts, subscribing for a newspaper, paid the post office the postal charges on delivery. Under this Bill it was proposed that publishers should be compelled to pay the postage themselves, which would entail upon them an expenditure of from \$50 to \$400 a year. He had no objection to reducing the postage upon newspapers, which he thought was a step in the right direction, but he did think that the Postmaster General might have gone further and removed the impost altogether. In the case of newspapers published in cities, such as Toronto, and Montreal, the Express Companies distribute them throughout the country, free of charge he understood, receiving value, of course, for their work, in the shape of advertisements, and "puffs." Thus the publishers of local journals were placed at a disadvantage. He believed the whole revenue derived from the postage of newspapers, would not exceed \$25,000. Provision was made in the Bill, for the free delivery of letters in cities. He was not opposed to free delivery, if such were required, but there were very few cities in the Dominion which were so large, that the people could not send to the post office for their letters themselves. He understood from the Postmaster General that free delivery in all the cities of Canada would entail an expenditure of \$45,000 per annum. There was another point to which he desired to refer—public documents were all sent by mail free of charge. The Province of Ontario had a surplus of \$6,000,000 and other Provinces had also surpluses. He asked, therefore, whether it would not be well to remove the postage from newspapers and make these rich Provinces pay for mailing their official documents. He believed that would be endorsed by the people of this country. He was sure the publishers of newspapers in the rural

districts were less able to pay the postage on their newspapers than the rich Province of Ontario. He submitted these considerations to the Postmaster General in the hope that he would see his way to carrying newspapers free of charge.

Hon. J. H. CAMERON quite concurred in the suggestion that this Bill of thirty clauses should be incorporated in the old Act. There were some clauses amending portions of the latter which were not based on prepayment of postage.

Hon. D. A. MACDONALD—That would relate to foreign.

Hon. J. H. CAMERON—No, not to foreign. For instance, the 13th section was as follows :—

The thirtieth section of said Act is hereby amended by striking out all the words after the word "delivered" in the sixth line thereof, and inserting the following instead thereof, as part of the said Section :

"Bearing unpaid postage as shall also the exact value of current coin as respects postage stamps, registration stamps, stamped envelopes or post cards, post bands or wrappers, purchased from any Postmaster, and the exact amount of postage payable to any letter carrier on any letter or mailable matter delivered by him."

This related to postage within the country, and there was another instance in another part of the bill. Then clause six empowered

The Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him, that any person, firm or partnership or company, in Canada or elsewhere, is engaged in conducting any scheme or device for obtaining remittances through the Post Office, by means of false or fraudulent pretences, representations or promises of any kind, to forbid the payment by any Postmaster to any such person, firm, partnership and company, of any postal money order drawn in his or their favor, and to provide for the return of the sum named in such order, to the remitter thereof, and may, upon such like evidence, forbid the delivery to such person, firm, partnership or company, of any registered or other letter, which he believes to be addressed to or for him or them, through or by reason of any such fraudulent scheme or device, and may cause any such letter to be returned to the sender thereof, marked with the word "Fraud" as reason of non-delivery to its address.

Now, it was very true that the provision in the United States law on this subject was more stringent than this was in one sense, because it made the offence a misdemeanor, but it must be tried first. Under this clause, however, the Postmaster General was given the very great power to stop mail matter, upon the *ex*