

they passed, the Government would, of course, have given them preference.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The last communication I had was that, if the hon. Minister would retain them in their positions and give them an opportunity to go up for an examination, they would avail themselves of it. The period had passed when the examination was held, and the next examination would not come off for a few months, so that, in the meantime, they could not present themselves. The Act might be amended, so as to give them a few months delay, if they were not ready to pass at once.

Mr. HESSON. I endorse what my hon. friend has said. I have had occasion to interest myself on behalf of one of those young gentlemen. It appears to me that where a number of men for years had done their duty faithfully to the public, although not in the employ of the public, the Government should recognise their services, by retaining them in some capacity, under the new state of things. The postmaster himself objected to the change, because I believe it is going to reduce his receipts, but the young men were in favor of it; and now, when they find themselves on the road, I believe he refused to allow them to go up for the Civil Service examination. If that be the case, they should be continued in the service, until they have an opportunity of passing their examination.

Mr. CARLING. I cannot alter the Act, but I am sure there will be every disposition on the part of the Government to take a liberal view with regard to these officers. I am glad hon. gentlemen have mentioned the subject.

Mr. TROW. What accommodation is given to the settlers at Rainy River, Fort Francis locks, about 100 miles from the Canadian Pacific Railway?

Mr. CARLING. I believe there is a post office established at Fort Francis, and one will be established in a few weeks at Rainy River.

Mr. DAWSON. There is a post office at Fort Francis, one at Rapid River, on Rainy River, and one at Rainy River; three in all. The mail going from Rat Portage to Rainy River is irregular; some arrangement should be made to have a mail twice a week instead of one every week in summer, and once a fortnight in winter. There is a very large settlement now at Rainy River.

Mr. WILSON. In St. Thomas we have every right to expect to have a city post office there. The revenue from St. Thomas has been greatly increased, and is increasing very rapidly, and the population would warrant the Government on deciding to establish the St. Thomas office as a city office. The Postmaster General should take into consideration the propriety of making St. Thomas a city post office. Owing to the situation of the town, and the fact that it covers a great deal of ground, free delivery of letters would be very advantageous. The post office will move into its fine new building within a few days or weeks, and it would certainly be desirable to have it established as a city post office, and provision made for free delivery of letters.

Mr. CARLING. There can be no doubt that flourishing towns, such as St. Thomas, St. Catharines, Guelph, Stratford and Chatham, will, in a very short time, a very few years, be established as post offices, the same as Brantford. But the revenue of those cities and towns is nothing like the revenue derived from Brantford. That of Brantford amounts to between \$20,000 and \$21,000, whereas the revenue of St. Thomas office, at the present time, only reaches \$13,000. Of course, as the Minister of Public Works has erected fine buildings at St. Thomas and Stratford, no doubt they will, in a very short time, be established as city post offices, and free delivery extended to them.

Mr. INNES. I am glad to hear that it is the intention of the Postmaster General to establish free delivery at no remote date in the cities mentioned. If the hon. gentleman is in view of free delivery being established at Brantford, I think Guelph is entitled to it also. The revenue, if not so large as that of Brantford, is very nearly as high, and according to the last census our population is larger.

Mr. WILSON. Our receipts are increasing very rapidly. Our population would compare very favorably with Brantford or Belleville, as we have about 12,000 people. It may be that the people of St. Thomas do not receive so many dunning letters.

Mr. DAWSON. There is a very large postal business done in Prince Arthur. Last year no less than \$315,000 passed through the money order office. The town has now 6,000 inhabitants, and the post office is kept in a little wooden building. That is hardly suitable for such a large and growing town, especially as it is going to be one of the cities of the Dominion. When the revenue will permit, I hope a building for the post office will be erected.

Mr. CARLING. My attention has already been directed to the importance of having a post office built at Port Arthur, and I think the Minister of Public Works has had the matter under consideration. It is not, of course, proposed to erect one this year, but with the rapid growth of the town, no doubt the Government will be able, in a few years, to erect a building for post office and Custom house purposes.

Mr. LANDERKIN. While the Postmaster General is giving great attention to cities, I desire to remind him that in many offices in rural constituencies there is not more than one mail a week. The country post offices are self-sustaining, and the Minister would make them even more so if he gave them a more efficient service. If he would give a postal service every day, he would be doing something that would justly entitle him to the thanks of the people, and the revenue of the offices would warrant the change. I hope that before long the post offices in rural constituencies will obtain a full measure of justice.

Mr. CARLING. Every attention is being given to the rural districts. There is hardly a case in which, where a petition has been sent in for better service than a weekly service, that we have not given a semi-weekly or a tri-weekly or daily mail. Whenever petitions are sent in by any district, especially a rural district, every attention will be given to the application.

Mr. INNES. After considerable delay it was decided to give additional accommodation to the post office at Guelph; \$1,000 was voted last year for the work, but through some misunderstanding nothing has been done. I understand from the Postmaster General alterations will be made soon and I hope they will not be forgotten.

Mr. CARLING. My attention has been called to the want of accommodation in the post office. A room occupied by the Inland Revenue Department is about to be given up to the post office, and it will give sufficient accommodation for the purpose.

Mr. McMULLEN. Drew and Smithurst post offices are only served by a mail twice or three times a week. A petition was sent in last year, praying that one of these post offices might be abolished and the other removed to the railway station. If that were done we could have a mail every day. If the Postmaster General looked into it, he would find that there could be increased accommodation given without any increase of cost.

Mr. CARLING. I shall be glad to make a note of what the hon. gentleman has said.