

Mr. PELLETIER:

1. Yes.
2. A check is introduced, which is intended to prevent the forcing open of the lock by other means than the use of the key.

\*Mr. KYTE:

Has any comparison been made by the Post Office Department between locks for mail bags used in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States? If so, when?

Mr. PELLETIER: No.

PICTOU-WEST RIVER MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. MACDONALD:

1. Has any change been made in the carrying of the mail between Pictou and West River, county of Pictou?
2. If so, what was the change, and for what reasons was it made?
3. Who is the new contractor?
4. Were any tenders called for since January 1, 1913?
5. What amount is being paid for the service now?
6. On whose recommendation was the change made?

Mr. PELLETIER: On a report of the superintendent, rural mail delivery, the department is arranging for the establishing of rural mail service in the district served by the Pictou and West River mail route. Rural mail routes starting from West River station and Salt Springs will supersede a portion of the present route. Tenders have been invited for the new services and the contracts have been awarded, but they have not yet been executed. As soon as this is done, the department will give the information.

MILLVILLE-DALHOUSIE MOUNTAIN  
MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. MACDONALD:

1. When was the change made in the mail contract between Millville and Dalhousie Mountain, county of Pictou?
2. For what reason was it made?
3. Who is the new contractor?
4. How much is paid him?
5. What was paid the old contractor?
6. On whose recommendation was the change made?

Mr. PELLETIER: A clause in the contract of G. McIntosh provided for its termination on three months' notice being given. This has been done and the contract was terminated on the 30th September, 1912. A new contract was made with John R. Ross at the price paid to McIntosh, viz., \$160 per annum.

MONTREAL MAIL DELIVERIES.

Mr. MARCIL:

1. Does the Postmaster General consider as being satisfactory the postal service by which a registered letter bearing a special delivery

Mr. MACDONALD

stamp and the frank of a member of this House, mailed in the post office of the House of Commons at noon on Saturday, the 5th of April last, and addressed to a residence on St. Denis street, in the heart of the city of Montreal, is only delivered the following morning at ten o'clock; and the case of another letter sent from the Commons post office on the previous Saturday, and also bearing a special delivery stamp, and which being addressed to a member of this House at his residence on Sherbrooke street, Notre Dame de Grace ward, Montreal, is only delivered the following Monday morning?

2. Will the Minister inquire into this special delivery system with Montreal and see what improvement can be made in it?

Mr. PELLETIER:

1. From such inquiry as could be made in the absence of definite particulars, it was ascertained that a letter, which was apparently the one posted at noon on Saturday, the 5th of April, was received at the Ottawa post office, under registration, No. 1762, in the mail which left the House of Commons post office at 4.20 p.m. Had this letter not been registered it would have been despatched on train leaving for Montreal at 5 p.m., but as a registered despatch is not made up for that train, it was due for despatch on Canadian Pacific railway train No. 6 which on that date did not reach Ottawa until midnight. Consequently the letter was made up in a direct despatch from Ottawa for Montreal and Toronto railway post office east and sent to destination by the next outgoing mail, via Brockville and Ottawa train leaving Ottawa at 6.45. This mail would not be due at Montreal until about 7 o'clock Sunday morning. It is not the duty of post offices to deliver mail matter on Sunday, but to accommodate the public, 'special delivery' letters are sent out when possible on Sunday and this appears to have been done in connection with this letter. As the House of Commons post office is not under the jurisdiction of the Post Office Department, it cannot be stated why the letter was not sent out from the House of Commons post office to the Ottawa post office in the despatch which was sent to the Ottawa post office at 2.35 p.m., on the date of mailing.

As regards the letter posted on the previous Saturday, also bearing a 'special delivery' stamp, it is understood that it was not registered and cannot, therefore, be traced, unless definite particulars are given.

2. The department is not in receipt of complaints showing that there is a defect in the 'special delivery' system at Montreal. To make suitable inquiry on this point, it would be necessary that definite particulars be given by furnishing the envelope in question.