

Mr. PUGSLEY: While the Minister of Customs is here I want to refresh his memory by calling his attention to just what he said about the matter of a transcontinental service. He will find it at page 3042 of Hansard, April 19, 1916:

Mr. Pugsley: I think you told them on one occasion, if I remember aright, that if they thought Mr. Pugsley had not made large enough provision for harbour improvements to come to you as Minister of Customs—

That was referring to St. John—

Mr. REID: I remember that.

Mr. PUGSLEY: This may bring my hon. friend back to it.

Mr. Reid: The hon. member will remember that since that statement was made, we have been trying to economize.

Mr. Pugsley: Things have tightened up pretty considerably.

Mr. Reid: We expect to be running a through train service from Halifax and St. John to Winnipeg on or about the first day of June.

Mr. Pugsley: Of this year?

Mr. Reid: Yes, that is what I meant. We expect to run a through passenger service, with Pullman cars attached.

Mr. REID: That is all right; I did not say that we were going to run them over the Intercolonial from Moncton to Levis. We have been for the last fifty years running through Pullmans between Halifax, Moncton and Levis over the Intercolonial.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That is what the minister meant? Then he goes further:

Mr. Pugsley: Will that be a daily or a tri-weekly service?

Mr. Reid: We will, at least, run a service that will be satisfactory. We have ordered cars and we are trying to get more power as soon as possible, and I think that what we have done so far and the arrangements we have made for a through service ought to be satisfactory to the House and to the country.

The minister is speaking of the Transcontinental. I never dreamt he meant to simply continue the service we had over the Intercolonial railway, from St. John to Halifax.

Mr. REID: If I remember rightly, there was a through service between Quebec and Cochrane.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Yes.

Mr. REID: And the intention was that the through passengers could come from Halifax, St. John, and Moncton to Levis on the through Government passenger service, and at Quebec they could take the train through to Winnipeg, and travel the whole distance on the Government railway lines, and that statement which has just been read corroborates what I have stated.

Mr. PUGSLEY: They had all that before them last year. The minister will tell you that.

Mr. LEMIEUX: What service is there this summer from Montreal to Rivière Quelle and from Rivière Ouelle to Murray Bay? I was assured the other day, —and I think correctly—that the steamer service would be continued. Is there a Pullman between Montreal and Rivière Ouelle, such as last year, and on what days will the Pullman be attached to the train for Rivière Ouelle?

Mr. COCHRANE: I think the service will be the same as it has been for the last two years.

Mr. LEMIEUX: As the season is beginning, will the hon. gentleman consider a suggestion with reference to the days when this Pullman will be most acceptable to tourists? Of course, I am speaking, not only for the Canadian tourists, but for all the Americans who spend the summer at Murray Bay. A large number of American tourists, including former President Taft, were very much annoyed at the changes made last year in the Pullman service. I think, with a little good will in the department, everything could run smoothly. If the Pullman car, instead of returning to Montreal on Sunday morning, were to return Monday evening, it would be more convenient for tourists. If my hon. friend will accept some suggestions, I will send them to him.

Mr. COCHRANE: Certainly.

Mr. KYTE: I would like to get some information as to the amount of money spent for betterments on the Intercolonial railway, from Point Tupper to Sydney during the past year.

Mr. COCHRANE: I will obtain that information for the hon. gentleman.

Mr. CARVELL: Would the minister bring down what correspondence he may have, between parties interested and Mr. Gordon Grant and himself, as to the pedestal of the Salmon River viaduct?

Mr. COCHRANE: I will bring what I can; I do not know that I have it.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess.

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. OLIVER: I wish to make some inquiries in regard to traffic on the Transcon-