

Johns, by the mercantile marine. It would be well for the minister to keep that in view because it gives a direct service by a Canadian line whereas, in giving a subsidy, we give a subsidy to the Read-Newfoundland Company, which is a company tied up with the affairs of Newfoundland. Under the system which I refer to we are keeping up our own service, employing our own means of carriage and helping ourselves. It would be well that I should say for the benefit of any shippers whose attention may be directed to this discussion in the committee, that there is now a Canadian line through Charlottetown from any point in Canada direct to St. Johns Newfoundland which will help to relieve the congestion that exists at the larger ports on account of the want of facilities.

Canada and South Africa, steam service between, \$146,000.

Mr. NESBITT: How often does that steamer ply?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: This is a service which has been running for eight or ten years. It is a monthly service. It has been carried on during the war somewhat intermittently but not at all subject to the fluctuations which were noted as occurring in the Australian service because the contractors were able to secure vessels and to move the traffic with much more regularity. Now there is no difficulty about it and it is a monthly service.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Is that not the Elder Dempster line?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. LEMIEUX: That is more than eight or ten years old. It was inaugurated under the Laurier Government.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Well we have had a longer service than I at the time thought. That service has been a very satisfactory one and trade and trade interests with South Africa are constantly being advanced and are on a very satisfactory basis at the present time. This same line inaugurated a direct service with West Africa and although we are not paying any subsidy for the West African service we are getting a monthly service to South Africa and also a monthly service to the west coast. I may say that investigations made and information obtained disclose very excellent prospects of opening up trade between Canada and the west coast of Africa and the Gold Coast. We have very good friends there who were formerly West Indian administrators. One of them is now

[Mr. Sinclair.]

administering in Gambia and the other—who has just left Ottawa having been in attendance at the West Indian conference—has been nominated as the administrator on the Gold Coast. Both of these are very strong friends of Canada in the matter of the interchange of products between their countries and ours.

Mr. REID (Mackenzie): Would the minister kindly explain what products we get of theirs in exchange for our products? What products of ours do they require?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Our trade with Africa is very largely in exports and not so much in imports. Trade is carried on by what you might designate as "a one-passage service." That is the vessels go from here carrying our exports to the African ports, and then they take cargoes from there and work back, triangularly or otherwise, to Canada, and continue on with their service. The amount of our imports from South Africa is not at all in proportion to the volume of exports that we send them. That works to our advantage because it redresses the balance of trade generally with that country. We are sending to South Africa agricultural implements, calcium carbide, automobiles, paper, lumber, cereal foods, chairs, wooden ware, beaver board, nails, condensed milk, locomotives, cardboard, shovels and spades, cement, and a varied line of other articles.

Victoria and West Coast, Vancouver Island, steam service between, \$5,000.

Mr. REID (Mackenzie): May I ask which company receives that \$5,000?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The Canadian Pacific Railway Company are the contractors.

Vancouver and northern ports of British Columbia, steam service between, \$16,800.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The Union Steamship Company are the contractors in this case.

Charlottetown, Victoria and Holliday's Wharf, steam service between, \$2,500.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queen's, P.E.I.): I would ask the minister if he has considered making any provision for an increase of this subsidy.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I have looked into the matter as carefully as I could and I have not been able to carry an increase for that service this year.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queen's, P.E.I.): I would like to point out that under the conditions that obtain in connection with this