

Mr. Pelletier said that the Department desired their co-operation and wished to have a committee of the Associations acting.

#### THE NATIONAL ASPECT.

Mr. Ross: "We will report that, and I think there is only one other consideration which ought to be mentioned on behalf of the newspapers. While we hold that a thorough examination should be made of the conditions and costs of railway mail carriage and other considerations before postal changes are considered by the Department we realize that it is possible that the result of the investigation might really show some postal loss due to the carriage of newspapers and other periodicals at the quarter-cent a pound rate. Yet, and we wish to emphasize that, cost has never been considered the deciding factor. Great weight has always been given what might be called the national educational side of the question. The principle has been accepted in Canada that it is of national importance to have as wide dissemination as possible of newspapers and other periodicals and their information, and we would accordingly express the hope that whenever consideration of changes in postal regulations come up, this feature should be given full importance. It might be arguable that even if the quarter-cent a pound rate does not meet the cost of railway mail carriage there may nevertheless be no sufficient cause for action by the Department as regards postal rates."

"As to the national aspect," said Mr. Pelletier, I think you are right, to a certain extent at least. If I were to ask the rate the railway companies present to us it would put you out of business, but this Department is willing to carry its fair share of any such increase so as to meet you half-way and try and work together in order to try and get the best results we can, and just for the very reason you mention, the national aspect. There is one point, it is the amount of the Saturday paper. I think anyone who reads papers in this country, and nobody is a more careful and attentive newspaper reader than myself, newspapers of all sides of party