

fied by the officer under the direction of the department to get off the lands, will not do so. Of course, we could bring an action of ejectment against him and put him off, but that would be expensive and troublesome. Every Crown Lands Act ought to have a provision of this kind, and they nearly all have.

Bill, as amended, reported.

THE POST OFFICE ACT.

Order for third reading of Bill (No. 110) further to amend the Post Office Act,

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock) moved that the Order be discharged, and that the House again resolve itself into Committee of the Whole with instructions to add the following amendments:—

Subsection 1 of section 9 of the Post Office Act, chapter 35 of the Revised Statutes, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:—

(s) Make regulations providing that in the case of mail matter which bears upon the cover thereof the name and address of the sender, and which may be mailed unpaid, the postmaster at the office of mailing may notify the sender thereof of such non-payment and allow him to supply the short postage for the purpose of being affixed thereto by the postmaster, and that in the case of imperfectly addressed mail matter which indicates on the cover the sender's name, the postmaster may afford the sender an opportunity of enabling the postmaster to complete the address.

He said: At present a letter that is wholly unpaid is transmitted to Ottawa. For example, on Saturday I received a complaint from a Premier of one of our provinces that a drop letter addressed to him in the city where he resides, instead of being forwarded to him, was forwarded to Ottawa under the present law, the postmaster, I suppose, holding that he had no power to do otherwise than send it to the dead letter office. This amendment proposes to allow the postmaster to use a little common sense, and to apply to whoever is the sender, and get a stamp to be put on. The second part of the amendment provides that the postmaster is allowed to perfect an address if he can do so. Another amendment is this: On Friday last the House agreed to three points outside of Ottawa being treated as dead letter offices, namely, Winnipeg, Victoria and Halifax. On conference with the officers of the department, I am satisfied it would be advisable to establish at least one in Toronto, which is a very large centre, and if possible, another in Montreal. These are both important railway centres, Toronto especially being the centre for all the western part of Ontario, and the mail matter of that region would only be delayed by transferring it to Ottawa. I do not propose that dead letter matter in any of these offices shall be dealt with by the officers connected with the local staff; but they shall, for this

Mr. SIFTON.

purpose, be treated as members of the inside service in order that they may be more directly under the control of the department here; and, if necessary, to make additional appointments, assuming that we shall have to transfer some of the officers from the centre to outside points. In other cases it may be sufficient to transfer the members of the local outside staff to the inside staff so that they shall be amenable directly to the department at Ottawa.

Motion agreed to, and the House again resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

On the amendments,

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Was there not an understanding the other night that the places to be treated as dead letter offices, should be limited to three cities?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Yes, in a sense; but I do not think a great deal of importance was attached to the number. The Bill as presented to the House asked that the Postmaster General might be allowed to indicate the number of offices without their being named; and when the point was taken that that gave too much power, because he might select some small towns, and that the person opening the letters would have too much local knowledge, I then expressed my willingness to name the points, and in a way I referred to those remote points. But since then, in conference with Major Walsh this morning, I have satisfied myself that we ought to have at least Toronto for the accommodation of all the dead letter matter west of Toronto, instead of sending that down to Ottawa to be treated as dead letter matter, thus involving a delay of several days.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Unfortunately some of the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House who took a prominent part in the discussion which led to what was tantamount to a settlement, are not here now; and I would suggest, when these amendments are reported, that the Bill, instead of being read the third time as is usually done, stand over until those hon. gentlemen are here.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am quite agreeable to that.

Mr. HUGHES. Is it not the case that in the United States the territory is divided up into dead letter districts?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I think not. But in Great Britain they have sixteen examining points all the way from Aberdeen in the north to Cork in the south.

Mr. DAVIN. I will remind the hon. gentleman that what took place was this: He