

RURAL POSTMASTERS—LOSS OF REVENUE

Mr. NEILL:

1. Has the government obtained any data showing the loss of revenue at rural post offices due to the reduction of postage on letters from three cents to two cents, and if so, will such data be laid on the table of the House?

2. Will the government give favourable consideration to an increase of the percentage allowance to rural postmasters to replace the loss of revenue to them caused by the reduction in postal rates, and will consideration be given to the fact that the commission to rural postmasters has not been increased to meet the higher cost of living since 1914?

Hon. Mr. VENIOT:

1. Yes, but incomplete until close of complete year from 1st July, 1926.

2. The matter is receiving consideration from both points of view.

SPRAY LAKES WATER POWER

Mr. STEVENS:

1. What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to deal with the Spray lakes power site in the Banff national park since the subject was last discussed in parliament?

2. Before any such rights are granted within any national park, will the minister submit the whole subject to parliament for discussion and consideration?

3. Has an editorial published in the Winnipeg Free Press of November 24, 1926, and entitled "A Projected Raid on the national Parks" been brought to the attention of the government? If not, will the responsible minister of the government condescend to give consideration to the sentiments contained in the said editorial before he alienates any rights or powers within any national park?

4. Will the government introduce at this session legislation defining and limiting the power of government by order in council to alienate any rights or extend any privileges within national parks?

Hon. Mr. STEWART: The government has been giving serious consideration to the many and varied representations made concerning the application to develop water power storage at Spray lakes in Rocky Mountains Park, and will introduce at the present session an amendment to the Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks Act, which will enable discussion of the Spray lakes application in the House of Commons. In the meantime no decision will be made on the application.

SALES TAX ARREARS

Mr. HOCKEN:

1. How many firms in the Dominion were in default in payment of the sales tax on December 1, 1926?

2. What is the number so in default in each province?

Hon. Mr. EULER:

Province	Active	Inactive	Total
Nova Scotia...	23	55 (18)	78
Prince Edward Island	1	9 (6)	10
New Brunswick...	9	16 (4)	25
Quebec...	280	690 (208)	970
Ontario...	149	770 (240)	919
Manitoba...	21	99 (32)	120
Saskatchewan...	12	16 (14)	28
Alberta...	11	59 (9)	70
British Columbia...	18	175 (35)	193
Totals...	524	1889 (566)	2413

Note—

Active arrears represent those firms in default being followed up by the collectors.

Inactive arrears represent firms in default being followed up by the department at Ottawa, the figures enclosed in brackets representing the number in litigation.

INSURANCE OF FRENCH-CANADIAN WOMEN

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Is the government aware that certain insurance companies demand an extra premium on policies issued in favour of French-Canadian women?

2. If so, does the government intend to introduce legislation to stop such unfair discrimination?

Hon. Mr. ROBB: The government is aware that higher rates have in some cases in the past been charged French-Canadian women, the extra charge being, it was claimed, justified by the mortality experience of this class of insured risks. It is believed, however, that the practice has been abandoned and that little cause for complaint will be found in the future.

WEST INDIES TRADE AGREEMENT—STEAMSHIP SERVICES

Mr. CAHAN:

1. What has been done towards the fulfilment of the terms of the West India agreement with respect to the West India steamship services?

2. What is the present position of the eastern and western services respectively?

3. Is the regular eastern service with Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara and the smaller islands of the eastern group now being maintained, and to what extent?

4. What difficulties, if any, prevent an immediate acceptance of tenders for carrying out the proposed improved steamship service with the eastern group?

5. Is it the intention of the government forthwith to invite new tenders for carrying out the steamship service with the western group on terms which will comply with the stipulations of the West India agreement, or otherwise?

6. Is it the intention of the government to procure modifications of the stipulations of the West India agreement regarding passenger service, speed of steamships, or otherwise, for carrying out the proposed new steamship service with the western group?

Hon. Mr. ROBB:

1. The Canadian government has decided to entrust the fulfilment of that part of the agreement, providing for steamship services, to the Canadian National Railways management. The services on both eastern and western routes will be put into operation as nearly as possible within the time stipulated in the trade agreement.

2. On the eastern route the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are maintaining a monthly service with the steamers "Chaleur" and "Chignecto", calling at all the ports formerly called at by the subsidized service, and in addition calling at the island of Nevis, both north and south bound, for which they are receiving the same subsidy as before, namely, \$13,102.56 per round trip. This service will be continued until the end of the fiscal year, the last trip being made from Halifax on March 25, 1927, arriving back at St. John on May 3rd.

After the end of the present fiscal year, the temporary monthly passenger and freight service will be continued by the Canadian National Railways and will be supplemented by monthly freight sailings from Canadian Atlantic ports, thus providing fortnightly services from those ports to all islands and colonies of the eastern group. Freight sailings from St. Lawrence river ports during the season of navigation will be continued as heretofore.

On the western route the Canadian Government Merchant Marine are maintaining their usual service every three weeks, with the steamers "Canadian Fisher" and "Canadian Forester", calling at Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and British Honduras, and this service will be continued until the new service can be put into operation.

3. Answered by No. 2.

4. Answered by No. 1.

5. Answered by No. 1.

6. No.

SIR AUGUSTUS M. NANTON

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

1. What sums of money, if any, were paid during the war to Sir Augustus M. Nanton?

2. For what services?

Hon. Mr. ROBB: The late Sir Augustus M. Nanton was a member of the general executive and the head of the organization for the province of Manitoba in the three victory loan campaigns, 1917, 1918, and 1919. The records of the Department of Finance indicate that he served in these capacities without remuneration.

If my hon. friend desires to inquire from any other department his question will have to stand as an order for a return.