

Mr. McLELAN. I may say that we consider the cost too heavy to be undertaken at present, but a boat has been placed there as a means of communication for the present.

Mr. VAIL. I observe that the amount of this service is the same as last year, so I am afraid the Minister of Public Works has overlooked the petition which I sent in for a telegraph line at Westport and Briar Island, which is very much needed. They have no communication now, except overland, a distance of 40 or 50 miles. I am sure there will be no loss to the revenue, because the receipts will fully cover the interest.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am afraid that amount is not covered. However, the Supplementary Estimates, I hope, will be down early next week, and the hon. gentleman may be able to see what is in them.

Mr. VAIL. I think the Minister knows what is in them.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Well, I think I do know something about them, and perhaps my hon. friend can tell by my laugh whether that item is in them or not.

Mr. VAIL. I can only judge from the past. I have seen the hon. gentleman smile before, but there has not been much in the Estimates to show that it amounts to anything. If he gives me a hint that it will be in the Supplementary Estimates, I will be satisfied for the present.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman will see that I must learn by experience. Once a Minister smiled, and it cost a good deal to the country.

Agent and Contingencies, British Columbia..... \$4,000

Mr. VAIL. What are these contingencies? It appears to me there are a great many votes for British Columbia.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I do not think my hon. friends from British Columbia find that there are many. The items are: Salary paid to Mr. Trutch by my Department, \$600; the accountant, Mr. Macdonald, \$1,200; the engineer, paid partly by my Department and partly by the Department of Railways, \$360; messenger, \$400; stationery, \$200; fuel, \$200; advertising, etc., \$200; and travelling expenses and contingencies of the office, \$840.

Mr. WELDON. Is this the only office Mr. Trutch fills?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. He is the agent of the Dominion there.

Mr. MILLS. Does the hon. gentleman know the total amount of salary Mr. Trutch receives? I think he holds several offices.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. He is, in the first place, a pensioner under the arrangements of the Confederation Act. In addition to that he receives, I think, \$1,200 as agent of the Dominion, and \$600 for the services he renders to my Department from time to time. Of course, if I had not his services, I should have to employ an engineer of my own, who would cost a great deal more. I think this is an economical arrangement as we can have. Of course, when the railway works are completed, most likely some other arrangement will have to be resorted to.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). I think there is a saving of about \$1,500 in that Department. The resident engineer received at one time \$2,100 or \$2,200, while Mr. Trutch receives \$600 for doing the same amount of work.

Mr. BLAKE. How much does Mr. Trutch get altogether?

Mr. BAKER. I believe about \$5,000, and \$5 a day when travelling.

Post Office—Amount required..... \$2,651,837

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Is the hon. Postmaster General erecting any other post office in Ontario, except Brantford, into a city office, this year.

Mr. WELDON.

Mr. CARLING. Not this year.

Mr. MILLS. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would tell us generally what the increases are for. I suppose they are for new offices being established.

Mr. CARLING. Yes; there are new mail routes being established in the different Provinces by rail or by stage, and of course new offices opened and additional officers appointed.

Mr. WELDON. The largest increase appears to be in salaries.

Mr. CARLING. The annual increases amount to a very large proportion.

Mr. MILLS. There is a very large increase in British Columbia.

Mr. CARLING. Since the Northern Pacific Railway has been opened, there has been a daily mail from Puget Sound to Victoria, which formerly had only three mails a week. Then, we have established a mail monthly to Port Simpson, and we have also a mail to Kamloops, and as far as the Canadian Pacific Railway is laid.

Mr. MILLS. Will the Northern Pacific be used throughout the entire year, or does the hon. gentleman expect to send the mails by the Canadian Pacific?

Mr. CARLING. Of course, the hon. gentleman will understand we do not pay anything for the mail service on the Northern Pacific; all mails are carried free over American lines; but of course, as soon as our own line is finished, a daily mail will be established on that route.

Mr. MILLS. And will this mail from Puget Sound to Victoria be continued also? The reason I ask is, that if there are no places to be supplied between Puget Sound and Victoria, of course that line would necessarily cease, as soon as the Canadian Pacific were used for the carrying of the mails.

Mr. CARLING. Of course, the American mails will have to be transmitted from Puget Sound to Victoria.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). With regard to the erection into city offices of offices that had been on the commission plan before, I have a few words to say regarding the officials. I am glad the hon. gentleman has erected the Brantford office into a city office, but I regret that it is the occasion of great hardship to a number of faithful men who have been in that office for a number of years, and in consequence of the change have lost their positions. Of course, there is no political significance in it, because they are in political accord with the Postmaster General himself. The postmaster says that under the Civil Service rules he had no option but to discharge these men. One of them has been 12 or 15 years in the service, and they all, of course, are anxious to retain their positions. I think there ought to be some provision made for these cases, as their claim is certainly stronger than that of those who may have passed the Civil Service examination. I take this opportunity of asking the hon. gentleman when he thinks he can give Belleville and Brantford letter carriers? Kingston has letter carriers, and I think the post office in Brantford equals that of Kingston.

Mr. CARLING. I think before long the delivery by letter carriers will be established in Brantford. It is one of the most prosperous cities in the west, and the receipts amount to over \$20,000. With regard to the clerks in the office, of course the hon. gentleman will understand that, according to the Civil Service Act, I cannot appoint any one who has not passed his examination. These young men were engaged by the postmaster as his officers, and were not salaried officers of the Government. They were aware we were about to establish Brantford as a city office, and should have taken an opportunity to pass the examination. Had