

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

1. Was the franking privilege used by any minister directly or by permission in the distribution of campaign literature issued in the interests of the liberal party after the 21st of July, 1908?

2. If so, by what ministers, up to what period and to what extent?

3. To whom was the minister's frank entrusted for the above mentioned use?

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Postmaster General. Yes—just as the same privilege was exercised by ministers of preceding governments. No record being kept of matter so despatched from any post office, it is impossible to tell the quantity franked or by whom. The minister's frank is usually entrusted to his private secretary, or some other official in the minister's office.

FREE MAIL DELIVERY IN CITIES.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. What are the names of the cities in Canada which were granted free mail delivery in the year 1908, and the estimated amount it will cost to deliver the mail per annum under present system in each city over the amount paid before free mail delivery was established?

2. How many mail and stage routes are in operation outside of the cities, towns and villages in Canada?

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Postmaster General):

1. During the year 1908 letter carrier delivery services were established in the under-mentioned places at the estimated cost given below:

Office.	Estimated salaries of carriers.	Estimated cost of equipment.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$
St. Catharines.....	3,916	344	4,260
Sarnia.....	3,526	301	3,827
Fort William.....	4,405	387	4,792
Port Arthur.....	3,916	344	4,260
Moncton.....	3,526	301	3,827
St. Thomas.....	3,526	301	3,827

As the salaries of carriers are determined by law the amounts payable to them will naturally increase, dependent upon length of service. Moreover, the growth of any particular city or town may call for the enlargement of area of delivery or more frequent deliveries, thus correspondingly increasing the cost. It is impossible to tell what increased cost has been involved by the adoption of the letter carrier sys-

tem which is provided to prevent public inconvenience, pressure and delays at head office which would be occasioned where only a general delivery wicket was in operation, and which would otherwise undoubtedly call for an enlargement of public buildings as well as an increase in the clerical staff to attend upon the public.

2. A full list of all mail contracts applicable to public buildings as well as an increase in Report.

TOWN SITE OF COCHRANE—G. T. P.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. Is the government aware that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company are said to be ignoring the site of the town of Cochrane, at the junction between the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific and laying out a town site a short distance away?

2. If said circumstances exist, is it within the power of the government to interfere, and is the government likely to take any action in this matter?

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals). 1 and 2. The matter is not under the jurisdiction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, but the Transcontinental Railway Commission state they have the question under consideration.

DOCK AT GRAND BEND.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. Is the government aware that there is not a public highway leading to the dock at Grand Bend? If so, will the government investigate the matter and try and remedy the grievance?

2. How much money was expended on the wharf at St. Joseph in 1908, and does the government intend completing said structure?

3. Is the government aware that the town of St. Joseph was sold for taxes in 1908, and that the reeve and clerk purchased the site for \$700?

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY (Minister of Public Works):

1. (a) Yes. (b) Steps are now being taken to expropriate land required for approach.

2. (a) Expenditure from January 1, 1908, to date, \$748.25. (b) Resident engineer reports that since the approach of the wharf has been completed the whole work is in good condition.

3. The department has no information to this effect.

BOOKS ENTERING CANADA UNDER BRITISH PREFERENCE.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. How many pounds of books entered Canada under the British preference in 1908, and what amount of duty was collected on same?