

run from Lévis to Moncton was being made by men sent from the province of Quebec. Naturally there would be a grievance in the minds of New Brunswick mail clerks if they found that the run they had over the best part of the Government road was being interfered with by men from any part of Quebec. I wish to protest on behalf of the New Brunswick mail clerks against any change that will interfere with the privileges that have been enjoyed for a long term of years by these men, some of whom were appointed by the Mackenzie Government, and who have no particular shade of politics, and who, from the number of years they have spent in the service, are entitled to consideration. I also wish to protest against any change which may be contemplated that would interfere with the privileges they have enjoyed during all these years. From what they told me I understood that they had a grievance. I only wish to ask the hon. Postmaster General if that grievance has been put in writing and presented to him, or if any protest has been made. For I have collected some information, and, at another time, I may see fit to bring it before the House.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No protest from any mail clerks have reached me. Whether it has been sent to any officer of the department or not, I do not know. If there has been any inequality in the representation, such as I indicated a moment ago, that will come to an end on the 15th of this month. We had to settle down in a certain way. We had to take clerks off other runs to teach those who are being put on the practical duties of the office, the sortation on the cars, &c. The Controller stated that it would take about six weeks, and that after the 15th of May he would have the representation I had mentioned—four from Lévis and four from Moncton, to run through each way. I think my hon. friend will agree with me that that is a fair arrangement. If not, I shall be glad to hear any representations on the subject.

Mr. McINERNEY. Did the four men from Lévis previously run through from Moncton? Were they on the road before?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The run was different—it was from Lévis to Campbellton, and then there was a run from Moncton to Campbellton.

Mr. GILLIES. I would ask the hon. Postmaster General if he contemplates or intends making any addition to the inspectoral division of Nova Scotia. The hon. gentleman knows that that is a very important division. It is territorially large and it is practically divided already into two divisions, Nova Scotia proper and the island of Cape Breton. I understand that for some time past it has been contemplated by the department to have the inspectoral division divided into two. I would like to ask the

Mr. McINERNEY.

hon. gentleman if he intends making such change?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I have no objection to discuss that point now, but perhaps my hon. friend (Mr. Gillies) would prefer to wait until the matter of inspectors comes up. Such a discussion would hardly be in order under this item of civil government. The discussion we have had has arisen over the establishment of the new office, that of Controller of Railway Mail Service. If my hon. friend acquiesces in that suggestion and will renew the inquiry when we come to the item which deals with the inspectorates, I will discuss the matter.

Mr. GILLIES. I am aware that the discussion is, perhaps, just a little irregular on this item, but I brought up the question because there is a possibility that I may not be present when the item the hon. gentleman has referred to is going through. If the hon. Minister (Mr. Mulock) would prefer to discuss the matter on the Main Estimates, I will get some gentleman to ask some questions for me if I am not here.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. If the hon. gentleman wishes it, I will answer him now.

Mr. GILLIES. I would be pleased to have an answer from the Postmaster General.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I have not been able to find any argument in favour of an increase in the inspectorates of Nova Scotia. My opinion is that there are too many inspectors at the present time in Canada and that there has been too much extravagance. I believe that the new system, when it is in full swing will make any increase in the number of inspectors quite unnecessary.

Mr. GILLIES. Then the intention is not to increase?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I see no reason for making a recommendation for an increase or to propose any appropriation for that purpose to the House.

Mr. McINERNEY. I would like to ask the hon. Postmaster General if there is any vote here for an increase in the number of first-class mail clerks in the province of New Brunswick, and I wish to say that I think that there was last year a proposition for the addition of one or two, that is, promoting them from second to first-class rank. Mr. Henry Wathen was one. I would like to know if it is the intention of the Postmaster General to propose a vote to enable him to put Mr. Wathen on the first-class list?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bain). We are drifting away from the item.