

18, 1910, I communicated with the Post Office Department, and made that request myself, and to this request I received the following reply:

Ottawa, February 22, 1910.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, in regard to delay to mails for western Nova Scotia when forwarded via the Intercolonial railway to Halifax as compared with the route via the Canadian Pacific railway to St. John and thence across the Bay to Digby, and in reply would say that this matter will be immediately inquired into.

Yours truly

R. M. COULTER,

Deputy Postmaster General.

C. Jameson, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ont.

On the 19th March, 1910, I received a further communication with respect to this matter in which he said that:

The mails whether forwarded by the Intercolonial or Canadian Pacific railway were forwarded through to St. John and made the same connection with the boat for Digby.

I afterwards learned from the gentleman who had brought this matter of delays in these mails, owing to their going via Halifax, to my attention that there had been no delay thereafter, and that, in consequence of my taking the matter up with the department, and of the department having acted along the line I have suggested, the delay which had theretofore existed was no longer occasioned. So, I was somewhat surprised when I saw this notification in the press that Mr. Wall and the Minister of Militia and Defence had been the means of bringing about this reform. I may point out that, as this correspondence proves, this reform has been in existence for a year, and there could have been no very special necessity for these congratulatory telegrams, because they were sent to the wrong person. If my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence had desired to commend any person for activity in this respect he might have waved his hand or nodded his head at me across the floor of this House; and I think if he had done so he would have recognized the person who had been instrumental in bringing about this reform with which he is so pleased, and which I suggested and, of course, very heartily approve.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I can assure my hon. friend (Mr. Jameson) that there was no ill-will on the part of the Postmaster General in regard to this reform. The hon. gentleman, from his experience of life and political and public matters, will know that a reform always takes time before evolving into a reality. Last year, he chose to address himself to the Deputy Postmaster General. If he had come straight to me,

Mr. JAMESON.

perhaps it would have been more easy to obtain the reform. At all events I may say to my hon. friend that, during the year we had gathered the necessary information, so that when the Minister of Militia came with his request, matters were ripe and we could accomplish this reform which is so grateful to Nova Scotia and so much approved by my hon. friend.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia). I have no desire whatever to detract in any way from the work that my hon. friend from Digby (Mr. Jameson) is doing, or is trying to do, for western Nova Scotia. I did not know that he had written the letter to which he refers. He does not often hide his light under a bushel, but in this particular case it happened to be that way. My connection with the matter is this: I am interested to some extent, but not, perhaps, so much as the representative of the county of Digby, in the matter. My attention was called by the provincial member for Digby, Mr. Wall, to an undesirable condition of things existing in the western part of Nova Scotia with reference to the mails. I did not fully understand or apprehend what Mr. Wall meant, and I asked him to put the matter in writing. This he did, and sent his letter some time, I think, in early February, or perhaps in January. The moment I received this letter I forwarded it to my colleague the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux), and after a certain time, I received a letter from the Postmaster General to the effect that the idea mentioned in Mr. Wall's letter was being carried out. So, I sent a telegram to let Mr. Wall know. That is my connection with the matter as I have said, I had no desire to detract from anything my hon. friend (Mr. Jameson) has done.

Mr. JAMESON. The Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) has said that, if I had applied direct to him, instead of to his deputy the matter would have been expedited, and he would have attended to it. I did not read my letter of February 18, 1910, to the committee when I brought this matter up, because I did not think it necessary to go to that length. But I may say that the letter, a copy of which I have in my hand, was directed to the Postmaster General himself. I, of course, addressed him as head of the department. The reply came, in course of time, from his deputy. If the minister likes, I can read the letter I wrote. Perhaps it is as well that I should put it on 'Hansard,' and then the minister will have it at hand. The reason I make mention of this is that I am constantly meeting with things of this kind in my own county. The Minister of Militia and Defence says it is not customary to hide one's light under a bushel. Perhaps his suggestion is a good one, and as he is an experienced politician,