

along the line, and so on, to give service than the other road. The changes that have been made have been all in the direction my hon. friend's question indicates, that is, that where it has been found that the Canadian Pacific is serving any territory which could be as well served by the Canadian National Railway, then a change has been made in favour of the latter line and that will continue to be the policy of the department. But it all takes time, and the situation is complicated by a happening which was referred to by the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Stewart) who told the House that frequently the railroads make sudden changes in their time tables without notifying the Post Office Department, thus dislocating the mail service. That has happened time and time again. The Post Office Department has made representations to both railroads, and I have induced my colleague the Minister of Railways and Canals to make representations also, that none of these changes should be definitely decided upon, much less put into effect, without consulting the Post Office Department in advance, so that there will not be a dislocation of services and all these delays to which some hon. members have made allusion.

Now, there are certain features that have been brought up in the discussion that possibly might be referred to, but I do not know that it would profit any of us if I were to go into details regarding them. However, I might mention one or two. My hon. friend from Humboldt made a number of excellent suggestions. These suggestions have in part been carried out already. To the extent to which they have not been carried out immediate attention will be given to them by the department if, indeed, the department is not considering them at the present moment. In the same way the suggestions made by other hon. members—the hon. member for Saltcoats (Mr. Sales), the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Evans),—these suggestions, as well as a request or two preferred by one or both of these hon. gentlemen, also will receive the immediate attention of the department if, as I have said, in point of fact it is not engaged already in dealing with them.

My hon. friend (Mr. Stewart, Humboldt) has suggested that a portion at least of the overflow mail—the seasonal overflow mail as he happily characterized it; that is mail which appears from time to time and is not continuously in flow throughout the year—might be given to the Canadian National Railway, and my hon. friend instanced magazines, catalogues and so on. That class of mail has been given to the Canadian National Rail-

way, and as a matter of fact the system has been paid through one quarter approximately \$30,000 for the carriage of that particular class of mail.

I do not know that at the moment it is advisable to take up any further time of the House on this subject. It is one that my hon. friend from Dauphin (Mr. Ward) was quite justified in bringing before the House, and one which has elicited suggestions and requests from hon. gentlemen who have spoken that will bear fruit in a very short time by reason of the action which will be taken by the Post Office Department. Such being the case, and as we are all in agreement that there is no discrimination—I have quoted to the House a statement on that point by the gentleman who was responsible for that idea last year gaining currency—I would suggest the purpose of the mover of the resolution has been effected in introducing the resolution and having it discussed and that it might be withdrawn.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York): I did not think when I made my suggestion last night in favour of the consolidation of the two great railways in this country that I would meet with so much evidence in favour of the proposition as I have heard here this afternoon. Then let me cite another instance of approval. I was sitting down to my modest dinner last night when a gentleman came in and introduced himself to me and said "Mr. Maclean, there was more sense in what you were urging this afternoon than I have heard for a long time in parliament." The idea is going to grow; and I want to tell my hon. friends from the west that if they want to consolidate that part of Canada, make it more efficient, bring about better settlement, and have its business affairs improved, they must take up this proposal for the consolidation of these railway lines; and the sooner it is done the better it will be for them and the better it will be for the country at large. I want also to compliment the Postmaster General upon having recognized the need for consolidation and for the existence of a spirit of fairness between the two systems. But it is not so much fairness in competition between the two railways that we want as the consolidation of the two services and an improvement in the treatment of the public. If that is done you will see great improvements not only in the west but also in the east—in fact throughout Canada—because of putting an end to the existing awful extravagance of railway services, of postal services, of telegraph services, of express services and,