

to say on behalf of the newspaper interests that they were decidedly suspicious of railway representations in such a matter. So far as the newspapers knew, no expert effort had ever been made in Canada to ascertain exactly what the cost of railway mail carriage was to the railways. The newspapers desired that no undue weight would be attached to any railway representations until a comprehensive and accurate investigation of the conditions had been made by the Government. For one reason alone the newspapers had a right to be suspicious of railway statements regarding the carriage of mail, viz.: that when as a result of railway complaints the United States Government had announced a heavy increase in newspaper postage, a thorough investigation of the conditions by experts proved that the railways had grossly overstated the cost, and as a result the United States Government withdrew its original proposition. He might add that this phase of the matter had come up at the meetings of the Press Associations, and as a result it was found that the members were prepared to appoint an expert or experts at their own expense to examine and report on the conditions. The newspaper interests hoped that if such a step became necessary, such expert or experts would be given every facility to profit by any investigation which the Post Office Department might inaugurate, and to aid in the full examination of the conditions and costs of railway mail carriage and all other phases of the matter.

"There can be nothing fairer than that," said Mr. Pelletier, "I agree to it at once. We shall be glad to have your co-operation and to work with your committee."

Mr. Ross said: "I am sure we are all gratified to hear that. But I do not know that I am authorized to go so far as to characterize it as co-operation nor have we appointed any committee for that purpose. At the meeting of the Associations which we represent no action was taken further than authorizing expenses if necessary. No committee was appointed to deal with the matter, as we were expected to report back. But of course we appreciate very much your willingness to give us every facility."