

friend one illustration, and he will see that they have only touched the fringe of the thing yet. They do not serve the cross-roads, and they do not go within a certain distance of houses. The courier will start from the post office where he gets his mail, he will go ten miles along the concession line, he will then cross over to another concession line and he will then return to the place of beginning, having probably travelled about twenty-five miles. The people on these cross-roads are not served. They will demand the service there. The \$25,800,000 would be practically doubled—I will not say doubled—but would be enormously increased to serve the people living in between the concession lines. I believe this is one of the wildest schemes the United States ever embarked on. My hon. friend says there are no protests against it. There may not be any protests against this system any more than there are protests against the pension system, which is costing to-day \$140,000,000, although it is forty years since the war was closed.

Mr. FOSTER. They are good long livers there.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. They are; but yet nobody in Congress would care to imperil his popularity with the Grand Army of the Republic by objecting to the increases of the classes to which pensions are payable. I would not take the expression of opinion in Congress as a safe guide for us in Canada in a matter of this kind. Moreover, if we were disposed to favour this institution, our conditions are vastly different. It is true that in some sections we have as close settlement as in some parts of the United States, but I do not think any government will be powerful enough to establish rural delivery in favoured sections and not be compelled to yield to all demands and establish it in other sections as well. We have a population of 6,000,000 of people. They have a population of twelve times that at least. Our population is very sparse in districts, but a large part of our country is occupied by that sparse population. My hon. friend seemed to think that the establishment of rural delivery in the United States has caused a great increase in the revenue of the post office. He gave the figure, I think, as being 6 per cent of an increase over last year.

Mr. LENNOX. Yes; they gave 6 per cent. I did not intend to advance that. It was not an argument of mine. I was reading it from the report. I did not state that that was from rural mail delivery, but I said that it applied to the whole postal service.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Quite so; but the hon. gentleman drew the inference that the establishment of a rural mail delivery had resulted in increasing the revenue.

Mr. LENNOX. That is what they say.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. And he mentioned that the revenue of the Post Office Department of the United States increased 6 per cent last year. The United States is largely a commercial country. I have never made a comparison between the population in cities and rural districts in the United States and in Canada, but a country whose population is largely commercial will use the post office to a greater extent than will a country whose population is largely rural. No matter what may be the cause of the increase, whether it be because the people in the United States are more numerous in cities than in rural districts as compared with the people in Canada, yet I think our revenue increases each year at a rate far in excess of 6 per cent. I have not here the figures, but I think I would be quite safe in saying that our revenue has increased quite ten per cent and we have no rural delivery, so that I think the hon. gentleman cannot get any comfort out of that argument.

Mr. FOSTER. There is one point on which I would like the Postmaster General to give us information. Can it be found out somewhat nearly what the cost of the rural delivery is, and what the income is that is derived from the areas which are covered by rural delivery; so that we can get at an idea of the relative income and outgo?

Mr. ARMSTRONG. The minister stated that the deficit in 1904 was \$14,000,000. Is that correct?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I gave the deficit for the year 1905. I think their financial year ends in March, but at all events the estimated deficit in the United States post office for the fiscal year 1905 is \$14,340,938.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I received a letter from a congressman in Washington to-day and he distinctly states that the deficit in the rural mail delivery service has never exceeded \$8,000,000.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I do not know that the United States government has ever balanced up the revenue and expenditure on rural mail delivery alone. The deficit in the Post Office Department before the rural mail delivery service was inaugurated amounted to about \$3,000,000. In 1902 they commenced the expenditure on rural delivery, and while the deficit that year was only \$2,900,000, it has grown in these past few years to be over \$14,000,000, and the chief increased expenditure is for rural delivery.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG (East Lambton).
Mr. Speaker, the motion before the House