

insufficient postage on letters posted in the United States for Canada, so as to obviate the delay which now occurs by letters being held for insufficient postage in the United States?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Application is being made to the United States to enter into a reciprocal arrangement that will to some extent get over the difficulty that my hon. friend refers to. Of course, it must be reciprocal, we have not control of the matter ourselves. I have asked the Washington authorities to consent to some arrangement in regard to insufficiently prepaid letters between Canada and the United States, the same as obtains between Canada and all countries which are members of the postal union.

INDIAN GRAVES ON SONGHEES RESERVE.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Has the attention of the Department of Indian Affairs ever been called by their agent in British Columbia, or by any other person or persons, to complaints about the disagreeable proximity of Indian graves on the Songhees Indian Reserve to some residences occupied by white people?

2. If so, did the department have any investigation made into the matter; and if so, what was the reported state of affairs?

3. Has the department given any instructions to have the alleged nuisance abated?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. Yes. The attention of the department was called to this matter in the year 1898. 2. The department referred the complaint to the Indian Superintendent for British Columbia for investigation, and received a report from him to the effect that upon inquiry, he found that the cemetery in question is situated at a point at the entrance of Lime Bay, and the houses of the city of Victoria are across the bay, at least one hundred yards distant; that the grounds are tidy and well kept and could hardly be considered in the light of a nuisance; that in the event of interments in the cemetery being forbidden, the Indians have no other plot on the reserve that could be recommended, either for convenience or from a sanitary point of view, and to bury in the public cemetery would cost from \$10 to \$20 for each burial, and that it was not considered that there were sufficient grounds for preventing the Songhees Indians from interring their dead in their burying-ground. 3. In view of this report, the department informed the Indian Superintendent that it was not willing to take any steps at that time to prevent the Songhees Indians from interring their dead in their own burying-ground.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Mr. BOURASSA asked :

Has the government, or any of its members, been consulted as to the conditions upon which

the South African war should be settled? Is it the intention of the government to offer any suggestion or opinion on the matter?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Neither the government nor any of its members have been consulted as to conditions upon which the South African war should be settled. They are not considering the advisability of offering any suggestion or opinion upon the matter.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

QUARANTINE SERVICE AT GROSSE ISLE.

Mr. TALBOT (by Mr. Campbell) asked :

1. Does the hon. the Minister of Agriculture believe that he can properly do the quarantine service at Grosse Isle with one crew for two boats?

2. Does he think it prudent and safe to allow one of the boats lying at anchor while the crew go to shore for their meals?

3. Will an economy of one thousand dollars per month be realized by the above arrangement?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. No, the minister has not attempted to do this. 2. No, the minister does not think that this would be safe. 3. No, as arrangements have not been made, no question of the economy has been considered.

BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 163) to amend the Bank Act.

Mr. BENNETT ROSAMOND (North Lanark). Mr. Speaker, I was not present when this Bill was before the Committee of the Whole, as I wished to be, in order to ask for the adoption of an amendment, but, I would like now to ask the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), if he would kindly consent to have the Bill referred back to the Committee of the Whole, in order that I may discuss the amendment which I propose to introduce. If he will not do so, I will have to move the amendment now. The amendment I propose is:

That the Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be recommitted to a Committee of the Whole with instructions that they have power to add the following as clause 45:

Section 77 of the Bank Act is amended by adding the following clause:

Any bank advancing or lending money upon the security of the goods, wares and merchandise or collateral security or property mentioned in sections 73 and 74 of this Act, shall file in the office of the registrar of the registration division of the county or township where such advance is made and such lien created on the said property pledged to the bank under this Act, a statement describing the said goods, wares and merchandise or property so pledged, the name of the bank and the name of the debtor and the amount of the advance and the date upon which it was made, and unless and until such legislation is effected, the warehouse receipt, bill of lading,