

Southwestern Manitoba Mail Service.

To the Editor of The Commercial:

SIR,—I yesterday had an opportunity of reading your able and interesting editorial on the above subject, in your issue of the 24th inst.

My main object in troubling you again is to remove any idea that can possibly have arisen, that anyone in these parts blames any of the Manitoba postal authorities for the disgraceful way in which our correspondence is treated; it is well known here as elsewhere through the province that we have an excellent official in the Manitoba postal Inspector. I made that gentleman's acquaintance in the matter of a complaint I had to make in Winnipeg last year; immediate and courteous attention was paid to my representations and the matter was not only redressed but done in such a way that all went right afterwards. If the proper conduct of our mail service was under Mr. McLeod's control, we should doubtless have had different arrangements long ago, but we fear the fault lies at Ottawa, at any rate no one has yet condescended, so far as I am aware, to give any explanation whatever.

Is the Postmaster-General of Canada an executive or an administrative officer? if the former and he spends his time in office work at Ottawa, then the sooner the conduct of our local postal service is taken away from him the better; if on the other hand he is supposed to be an administrator, why does he neglect his duty by not coming to Manitoba to re-adjust postal lines as railways open and the country advances? We have had well-timed useful visits from the Governor-General, the Premier, Ministers of the Interior, Customs, Fisheries, Public Works, Militia, etc., but none from one who is certainly second to none in importance to us, viz. the Postmaster-General.

Confederated Canada is an enormous territory, and the Postal department is doubtless a hard-worked one; but if it is too much for one officer, let other arrangements, that will entail no additional expense, be made; let Manitoba be allowed on a proper business budget, estimate the money that is now spent on her stage mail service, and let this be laid out on that, and that only, by the Local Government under the advice of the local Inspector, and then all real cause of complaint should soon cease; the annual grant to be enlarged as Postal Revenue increases.

This appears to me to meet the case and to be an improvement, which should be promptly and determinedly taken up by the Manitoba Government, the local Postal authorities, the Winnipeg Board of Trade, the district municipalities, and all "the Press," irrespective of party feeling or politics.

Yours obediently,
Maringhurst, Aug. 31, 1886. W. WALTON.

[Our correspondent, we fear, is sadly astray in his estimate of the competency of our Local Government to handle our Postal arrangements in Manitoba, especially with the present apology for a Cabinet in power. It might furnish means to purchase more political support, or make a job for another incompetent Minister at a salary of \$3,000 a year. But slow and pig-headed as they are in Ottawa, we believe we will fare better than we would with our Postal affairs in the hands of Norquay & Co.]—EDITOR COMMERCIAL.

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