

Charlottetown and Murray Harbour? If so, when is the service to begin?

2. Is the Railway Department, or the government aware that the postal service along the route of the railway is inadequate and very unsatisfactory to the whole section of the province?

Hon. G. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals):

1. The business does not warrant any increase in the train service at present.

2. No doubt additional service would be appreciated, but the financial conditions would not appear to warrant it.

#### SUTHERLAND RIFLE SIGHTS.

Mr. WORTHINGTON—by Mr. Crocket—asked:

1. How many Sutherland rifle sights have been purchased or ordered by the Department of Militia and Defence to date?

2. What has been the total cost of the sights so ordered?

3. To what rifles are these sights to be adjusted?

4. Are they to be used with the Ross rifle?

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia):

1. 36,000 have been contracted for.

2. No payments have been made to date on account of the sights.

3. The Lee-Enfield.

4. Under consideration.

#### VACANCY.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a notification of a vacancy having occurred in the representation of the electoral district of Stanstead owing to the death of the sitting member, the late Henry Lovell, Esquire. I have accordingly issued my warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

#### INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

On the orders of the day being called:

Mr. MACDONELL. I wish to call the attention of the government to certain returns.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is impossible for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonell) to do that except by compliance with rule 37.

Mr. MACDONELL. I merely wish to ask a question.

Mr. SPEAKER. If it is only a question it is permissible.

Mr. MACDONELL. I would like to ask the government why certain returns asked for—two on the 8th November, last, and two on the 8th January of the present year—have not yet been brought down.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If the hon. gentleman would be kind enough to send me a note I will try and get them.

#### POSTAL SERVICE.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (Leeds). Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the hon. acting Postmaster General (Mr. Fisher) to the fact that a letter mailed to me from Gananogue—

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. I want to ask a question. I want to ask the hon. minister how it is that a letter mailed to me at Gananogue on the 10th December is only received by me this morning at nine o'clock. Although it is post marked as having been received at the office here at 12 o'clock last night—that would be nine o'clock last night—I only got it this morning. That is two days from Gananogue to Ottawa, and I want to ask the hon. acting Postmaster General if some better arrangement could not be made to have our mails delivered. I will send the acting Postmaster General the envelope.

#### THE FRANCO-CANADIAN TRADE TREATY.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) if he will have the information in regard to the French Treaty ready for us at an early date?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Certainly before we separate?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, before we separate, and we will possibly be able to proceed with it. As to that I am not quite sure. But at all events the information will be available.

#### CANADA SHIPPING ACT—AMENDMENT.

On the order:

Second reading of Bill (No. 2) to amend the Canada Shipping Act.—Mr. Lancaster.

Mr. E. A. LANCASTER (Lincoln and Niagara). Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) asked me to allow this Bill to stand until Monday. I am quite willing that it shall stand.

Order allowed to stand.

#### RAILWAY ACT—AMENDMENT.

Mr. LANCASTER moved the second reading of Bill (No. 3) to amend the Railway Act. He said: Mr. Speaker, this matter is one that is in no sense new to this House and if it were not for the, I may say, extraordinary position taken by the Senate in regard to this Bill last session, I would feel that it was out of place to speak at any length upon the subject, but, in view of the position taken, I think that perhaps it is my duty to—at a little length, discuss the matter in this House. The matter sought to be remedied by this Bill is a long-standing