

ment in Manitoba from the town of Somerset. The people want it to go by way of Treherne. They have also asked for a rural mail delivery. I sent a petition to the minister some time ago. The minister replied that he had referred this to the inspector and would act upon his report. Has he had any report?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I have a faint recollection of a petition being sent by the hon. gentleman. The reason I could not answer at once was that we were short of boxes. We are, however, now having them manufactured in Toronto, and they can be got very easily, so that all requests concerning mail delivery can be attended to. I shall look into the matter.

Mr. STAPLES. What is the policy of the government with regard to rural mail delivery? The district I speak of is one of the oldest in Manitoba, and I find that in newer districts, for instance, in the district of Swan River, there is rural mail delivery quite generally. I, therefore, suppose the minister will have no hesitation in granting that system to the old portion I have referred to?

Mr. LEMIEUX. The policy of the government has not changed. We have established rural mail delivery on the existing mail routes at the request of 50 per cent of the patrons. The boxes are sold at \$3 to the patrons. I might say, however, that we are disposed in the future to be a little more liberal in the establishment of rural mail delivery. When the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) is here, I propose to make a general statement.

Mr. STAPLES. Has the hon. minister any objection to placing postal boxes at other stations or towns throughout the constituency I have the honour to represent? I have had recently a number of letters from different towns asking for this. The minister two years ago placed postal boxes in two or three towns in which I asked him to place them.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Will my hon. friend send me his request in writing and it will be favourably considered?

Mr. BEST. Did the hon. minister take any action on the request of the people in the town of Shelbourne, Dufferin county asking for rural mail delivery?

Mr. LEMIEUX. That petition is before the department. I do not know if it has yet been reported on by the inspector. I shall look into the matter.

Mr. BRADBURY. Has the request made by the town of Selkirk for a post office box in the centre of the town been granted? The population is 2,500, and the post office was built a little bit out of the way.

Mr. LEMIEUX. If my hon. friend will send me a written application I shall look into it.

Mr. BRADBURY. All we want is a place to drop letters into down town. I want to draw attention to another fact. I have a petition from the Federated Letter Carriers' Association, who have asked me to bring it before the House and the minister. They are asking to be placed in a better position so that they may enjoy the benefits of superannuation. I do not think there is any class of men in the Civil Service, or in connection with the postal service, who deserve more consideration; and I might add that they labour in the west under difficulties greater than are experienced in other provinces, their expenses being much higher and the distances much greater. Would the minister kindly give favourable consideration to their request?

Mr. LEMIEUX. If my hon. friend will send the petition to me, I will see what I can do in the matter.

Mr. JAMESON. I would like to inquire with regard to the forwarding of mails from Montreal to western Nova Scotia, whether they go by way of St. John and Digby for the western part of Nova Scotia, or by way of Moncton and Halifax and around through the Annapolis Valley by the Dominion Atlantic railway. I have here a clipping from the Digby 'Courier' of the 17th instant, dated Ottawa, March 14, 1911:

A. E. Wall, M.P.P.,
House of Assembly,
Halifax.

You will be glad to know that instructions have been given to carry out your wishes with reference to the forwarding of mails for points in the Annapolis valley by a Canadian Pacific railway train from Montreal and west to St. John and Digby on Saturdays instead of via Intercolonial railway to Halifax as heretofore, thus saving 24 hours.

F. W. BORDEN.

I do not know who the signer of this telegram may be, but the initials are those of the Minister of Militia.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am the man.

Mr. JAMESON. What I would like to ask is whether the mails have heretofore been forwarded in that way, or whether this is a new departure?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I received information from the Minister of Militia that this was a proper thing for that section of the maritime provinces, and I acceded to his request. I think my hon. friend will approve of that. Instructions have been given to that effect.

Mr. JAMESON. I just wish to point out in that connection that on February