

Mr. BERGERON. Will they be sent to members during the recess ?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes, I will give instructions to that effect.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 201) to assist in maintaining an independent and efficient service of telegraphic news from Great Britain for publication in the Canadian press. He said: The object of this Bill is to extend for a period of two years the subsidy granted to the Canadian Associated Press. Perhaps that is, technically, not exactly the situation. The subsidy was allowed on a sliding scale for five years, aggregating \$60,000, and thus averaging \$12,000 a year. The promoters of the enterprise applied for a renewal of the subsidy on the basis of \$12,000 a year for five years, an equal sum to that given before, but under a different arrangement. After consideration we thought that all would be done that was necessary for the moment if we assured the promoters of the enterprise of the continuance of the subsidy of \$12,000 a year for two years. During that time, it may be that some other arrangement will be made, which, perhaps, will give more general satisfaction. I think that, on the whole, the service rendered has been regarded as satisfactory, though it has not been above criticism. However, after considering it, we have asked parliament to grant this for two years.

Mr. FOSTER. What has been done ?

Mr. FIELDING. I can tell my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) what has been paid, but that is about all I can tell him. The results of the expenditure are seen in the press day by day.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the minister no report on the subject ?

Mr. FIELDING. I have a communication from the president of the Canadian Associated Press, Mr. J. Ross Robertson, which, if my hon. friend wishes, I will read. When the deputation came to me and asked a renewal of the subsidy, I asked them to put in writing a statement of their views. I received, in response, this letter. It was marked 'Personal,' but I do not think it was intended to be other than a public letter:

Toronto February 18, 1908.

Hon. W. S. Fielding,
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir,—In accordance with your request made at the conclusion of the interview on Friday last with the deputation from the Canadian Associated Press, I beg to transmit to you in writing, the facts and figures then pre-

sented. In placing the matter before you I said:—

This deputation as you are aware is here with the object of discussing the future of the Canadian Associated Press and its relation with the government under the agreement entered into five years ago—which agreement expires at the end of next June.

The agreement was in brief that the government pay towards the expenditure of the Canadian Associated Press, for the years 1904-5-6, a sum not exceeding \$15,000 a year; for 1907 a sum not exceeding \$10,000 a year and for year ending June, 1908, a sum not exceeding \$5,000.

At the outset, I just want to refer for a moment to the past work of the Canadian Associated Press.

The work that the association has done during the four and a half years of its operation, has been most satisfactory to the membership, and I believe, meets with the approval of the government.

When the association was formed, it was settled at its first meeting that its purpose was to handle all Canadian news originating in Great Britain or the continent of Europe—and this class of news only. But, when the London office of the association had been in running operation for some months, on special occasions, other news of interest to Canadians was made part of the service with results that met with not only the entire approval and satisfaction of the members of the association, but elicited from newspapers not in the association, most favourable comment.

Among this class of news referred to, was news from Australia and New Zealand, that affected Canada—especially in matters concerning tariffs, which was particularly of value to Canadian manufacturers.

Then the British parliamentary election results were collected by our agents and cabled to the association. These were the only detailed returns of the elections sent to this continent by cable, for the American associated press only handled results in prominent constituencies, and generally only gave a meagre service.

It will also be remembered that the proceedings of the Colonial Conference in 1907 were very fully reported, for the Canadian Associated Press was favoured with exceptional advantages which enabled it to cover this event better than any other news service that uses the cables.

It is worth noting that the fulness of the British election reports and the Colonial Conference service by the association, was most favourably commented on by some of the leading British newspapers, and by Canadian correspondents of British newspapers resident in Canada.

The way that the Canadian Associated Press covered the British elections was a recognition of the fact that this country has national and imperial news interests that are not served by the American Associated Press.

It is a pleasure to know that members of the government at Ottawa also expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which both of these events were handled by the London office of the association.

It was particularly gratifying to hear citizens of Montreal and Quebec, speak in commendatory terms of the interesting cables con-