

## PARCEL POST EXPANSION APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT

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matter of postal progress. At one time, I believe, a letter cost a shilling in Great Britain, but now, owing to her almost free postal system, the price of letter postage was reduced from time to time, until it has attained its present very low figure."

"We have had the same experience, so has the U. S., namely, that in proportion as you improve the postal system and as you reduce the cost of postage, you increase the service rendered to the public, and in that way you help along the progress of the country."

Canada and the United States, said Mr. Maclean, had found by experience that the reduction of the general postal rate had increased the revenue and helped the country.

All that was required to extend the parcel post system was an order in council. Some improvement had been made in putting express rates under the railway board, but they were small.

"The fruit growers," he continued, "have complained time after time about the exorbitant express rates, and, do what we like and argue what we like, there is very little hope of relief from the express companies or the railway corporations until this country goes into active competition which is one thing which will bring the express companies to a sense of their duty to the people, and compel them to reduce their charges."

**Municipal Enterprises.**  
"We have in the Province of Ontario embarked in what are called municipal enterprises, and we have begun in many of our towns and cities to run our own street railway systems and to generate and distribute our own electric power. We have gone a step further, and now we have formed a great combination of municipalities to buy electric power at Niagara Falls and distribute it thru the Province of Ontario. The greatest and the most successful experiment in regard to public ownership, the public control and distribution of a great utility, is, in the Province of Ontario, in connection with the hydro-electric commission and the men who administer it, and the associated municipalities."

**Prices Cut in Two.**  
"The result of public competition in Ontario in connection with the electrical energy has been that prices have been cut in two, and further reductions are promised. When you reduce the cost you increase the use of the utility in a greater proportion."

"If we establish this principle in connection with the parcel post and, if we compel the railway companies to reduce their express charges, it follows as night follows day, or day follows night, that all we have to do is to intimate to the telegraph companies that unless they cut their rates in two or reduce them greatly, the government will be compelled to go into the telegraph business. We have legislation now on the statute books which will allow us to go into the telegraph business."

"If we wish to help the people of the Northwest with regard to the conditions which prevail there, and railway grievances form the greatest bulk of their troubles, the time is now, and the method to adopt at the outset is an extension of the parcel post system."

**United States Committed to it.**  
"In the United States both parties were committed to it. The American postoffice was actually carrying parcels for the British postoffice and delivering them for one-quarter of what the express companies charged."

"The argument raised against extension of the parcel post was that the country storekeepers would be hurt by the competition of the big departmental stores."

"There was never an improvement introduced, however, but hurt somebody. Progress was the law which governed the world, and we should keep pace in view of the advantage to the people at large."

"Think of what an immense advantage it would be to the settler away out on the prairie to be in touch not only with the country store but also with the base of supplies," said Mr. Maclean.

**Storekeeper as Buffer.**  
"So far as I can find, the plot has been by the express companies who use the country storekeeper as a buffer between them and an extended parcel post; the voice may be the voice of Jacob, but the hand is the hand of Esau."

"We were able to put an end to the evil," he continued, "because every one of the 14,000 postmasters in Canada would be able to handle the parcel post without much extra cost. A centre of life would be the village postoffice become if it became also a telephone and telegraph office. With the growing business it would be the voice of day and night service, as was the case in Europe."

Mr. Maclean paid a high tribute to the campaign of The Winnipeg Free Press to improve western conditions by a parcel post.

**For Public Monopoly.**  
Continuing, he said that while he would prefer to see a public monopoly, that would put the express and telegraph systems out of business, if the country was not ready for that public competition would bring down the rates and improve the service.

"What is the essential advantage of public ownership over private ownership in the matter of great public utilities?" he asked. "It is this. Public ownership seeks to improve the service and cheapen price, while private ownership tries to reduce the service and to increase the profits of the owners."

"Wherever there has been public ownership of these great utilities the result has been to extend the service to a great many people. There is always a line in public ownership where the service does not pay, but year after year such service is extended to smaller and outlying communities, thereby increasing its usefulness. But the first thing a private company controlling a public monopoly says is: 'There is a big profit in it for us; if not we shall not extend it, until you can show us that there is money in it.'"

**Be Generous to West.**  
The whole tendency of the world was to extend the parcel post systems. It was so in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Why should Canada delay? "Let us do something for the people of the west to-day," he added. "We are giving them a grain act, let us give them something else, let us give them a cheaper parcel post and cheaper express to-morrow. If we give them cheaper express by parcels post to-morrow, then next week they will have cheaper tele-

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TORONTO MONTREAL

graphs, and within a week or two the rates, there will be public competition as well."

**Mr. Maclean's Amendment.**

Mr. Maclean then moved, seconded by C. E. McCraney (Saskatoon) "That all the words after the word 'that' be struck out and the following substituted therefore: 'That this house is of the opinion that the expansion and extension of the parcel post system would be in the public interest.'"

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux declared himself as strongly in favor of the motion. It was time, he said, for a bold policy to be started, when the postoffice department should establish a popular and cheap parcel post system such as obtained in other countries.

The day had come in Canada, he said, when the postmaster-general should be the general superintendent not only of the postoffice, but of the telegraph and telephone as well. We had a parcel post, under another name, but it was only in embryo.

**Petitions for and Against.**

When he had proposed to extend the parcel post, said Mr. Lemieux, he had many petitions praying for it, and a number from farmers, who had been excluded by the express companies, against it. Canada could establish a cheap parcel post which would not injure the country storekeepers.

En passant, Mr. Lemieux declared himself in favor of a state-owned cable to England. It was the last link needed in the chain started by the Pacific cable, which had done good work. The present postmaster-general could make a name for himself by starting again the movement for such a cable.

Returning to the subject under discussion, Mr. Lemieux remarked that at present a lower rate could be got from Ottawa to England than from Ottawa to Vancouver or Halifax.

He recalled the fact that, when Rowland Hill advocated penny postage in Great Britain, he was laughed at. But cheap rates in cables in telegraphs, in telephones and above all in parcels,

said the ex-postmaster-general, meant higher revenue in every case.

**Built Postoffice Surplus.**  
The surplus in the postoffice department, he added, was due to the reduction of the postal rate from 3 to 2 cents, and the 1 cent drop letter system had added to the same result.

The express companies have taken out of our hands the business we ought to carry ourselves," he declared. It needed no special machinery to carry on a parcel post system.

Hon. L. P. Pelletier asked what Hon. Mr. Lemieux's ideas were in regard to limits of weight, etc. The latter replied that he agreed with the conclusions in the report of Supt. Ross of the Toronto postoffice.

**Wanted Debate Ruled Out.**  
J. E. Armstrong (E. Lambton) tried to get the whole debate declared out of order on the ground that his own discussion on the subject was on the order paper for Monday, but the speaker ruled against him.

The postmaster-general said he hoped the debate would go on, as he would not be in the house on Monday and he did not want to shift his responsibility in a matter of such great public interest.

G. E. McCraney (Saskatoon) in a brief speech seconded the motion.

J. G. Turritt (Assiniboia) gave a concrete instance of extortionate express rates. It had cost him \$2.50 to send a four-pound box of candy, which he bought for \$2.40, from Ottawa to Edmonton last Christmas.

**Need Remedy, Says Emmerton.**  
Hon. H. R. Emmerton declared that something was wrong with express charges in eastern as well as western Canada. The remedy should be achieved without delay. He approved of the motion.

Here Mr. Armstrong made another attempt to speak but was squelched by the speaker.

F. R. Lator (Haldimand) was rather dubious about the matter. Ninety per cent. of the farmers, he said, were opposed to it. The business of the de-

partment stores would be immensely helped by the system he advocated.

Hon. L. P. Pelletier declared that if the government came to the conclusion that the extension of the parcel post was in the public interest, no express companies would stop it. The parcel post could be expanded and improved.

With Canada's 12,000,000 of population, no express company could not have such a system as England had with her 45,000,000.

"If we were to carry that out," he said, "at the low rates asked to-night it would simply put the post-office out of business. He would favor extending the parcel post along the lines of the rural mail delivery. If there were to be a choice between the two he thought extension of the rural delivery should come first. The farmers wanted it."

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux interjected the comment that extension of rural delivery would lead to a cheaper parcel post.

The postmaster-general also declared for a state-owned cable to England. The present cables were American-owned monopolies. The service was inadequate and the rates excessive.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

The house spent most of the afternoon in committee on the grain bill.

**Farmers Lose Millions.**  
Dr. Neeley (Humboldt) stated that for lack of a sample market in Winnipeg the farmers of the Northwest lost millions a year. The spread between grades was great, and a man whose grain was not good enough for grade 1 but very high grade 2, got no more for low quality.

F. Z. Schaffner (Souris) remarked that the man whose grade 2 was of that the grain growers who were in Ottawa the other day were opposed to a sample market.

Hon. George E. Foster said that, whether there were a sample or a grade market, no one would propose to take away from the farmer the right to sell his product in the way he

pleased. Both the grain growers and millers were pressing for government-owned and controlled terminal elevators as more urgent than a sample market. They were strongly opposed to mixing grain, and the sample market was no use unless mixing were allowed.

**Sample Market the Remedy.**  
J. D. Staples (Macdonald) was in favor of the sample market. The identity of our grain should be preserved so long as there was no loss in dollars and cents. If the evil of mixing by manipulators could not be done away with the country should do it itself in a sample market.

J. G. Turritt (Assiniboia) thought the department should remedy the evil of substitution of grain.

W. F. Maclean (E. York) declared that there was too much intimacy between the railway companies, the milling companies and the elevator companies, to the detriment of the farmer and their own special profit.

**Would Be Criminal Offence.**  
J. A. M. Atkins (Brandon) pointed out that the railways were bound to deliver the identical article consigned to them by the consignee and anyone who took away that grain might be reached under the criminal code.

Hon. Frank Oliver declared that a more important question than the private rights of the parties was the degradation of the standard of the country's grain.

Dr. Schaffner (Souris) was emphatic in declaring that the only remedy was government control of terminal elevators.

**An Artful Dodger.**  
Before the orders of the day were called, W. E. Knowles (Moose Jaw) rose to a question of privilege. He objected to what he termed an anonymous dodger, which had been distributed to the members of the postoffice, charging him with falsehood in connection with his remarks on the alleged British Columbia lumber combine. The pamphlet was written by A. E. Watts of Watford, B.C., and he

charged A. E. Goodve (Kootenay) with the distribution.

Mr. Goodve replied that he was well within his rights. The document was not anonymous. It was forwarded to him for distribution by a prominent lumberman. The speaker ruled that such distribution was the common custom and perfectly justifiable.

W. M. Martin (Regina) drew the attention of the minister of agriculture to the necessity for seed distribution in Saskatchewan.

**Elaine's Motion in Order.**  
The speaker announced that, after further consideration, he had come to the conclusion that his ruling out of order yesterday of the resolution of Richard Blain (Peel) in favor of placing telephones in postoffices was not well founded, as it was merely an academic recommendation to the government which might, at a future date, involve, if acted upon, the expenditure of public money.

**That Excess Postage.**  
In answer to a question by J. E. Armstrong (E. Lambton) Hon. L. P. Pelletier stated that the former postmaster-general had stated in the house that clause 6) in the postal regulations, providing for the collection of one cent per four ounces on newspapers sent to new subscribers during the election contest, would be enforced. The Toronto postoffice had referred to the question of excess charges on The Toronto Globe, Toronto News, and other papers but no reply was sent, the rule being well known. The Globe had not, as it claimed, a binding agreement from the postoffice department to carry the papers at the regular rate of one-quarter cent a pound.

**Reorganizing D. T. and I. Railway.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—Plans for the reorganization of the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railway Co., which has been in the hands of receivers since 1908, have been practically completed. They call for reductions in the company's capital of about \$15,000,000, that is bond and stock issues aggregating \$28,000,000 have been scaled down to about \$20,000,000.

## HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE

Bulletin, Just Issued, Tells of Valuable Work Being Done in Ontario.

The bulletin of the Ontario hospitals for the insane was issued from the department of the provincial secretary yesterday. This journal, which is issued quarterly to each member of the medical profession in Ontario, not only gives interesting and instructive accounts of the work being done in the hospitals for the insane in Ontario, but also contains articles which indicate the progress being made in psychiatry throughout the world.

In the current issue contributions appear from all the Ontario institutions, and also an interesting paper by the Hon. Mr. Justice Riddell on "Insanity in Its Legal Aspects." The article from the pen of Dr. Frederick Peterson, professor of psychiatry, Columbia University, New York, on "The Insane in Japan," will be read by the medical men of Ontario with great interest and it will no doubt surprise many to learn of the remarkable progress of Japan in the care of the insane.

The bulletin is now entering its fifth year of publication, and the present number is probably the most interesting of the series. The new department of book reviews will enable the general practitioners to gain an idea of the estimate placed upon such publications by those actively engaged in the special work of caring for the insane.

**Week-end Excursion Rates to Niagara Falls and Buffalo.**  
Take advantage of special excursion rates via Canadian Pacific to visit Niagara Falls and Buffalo, Saturday, Feb. 3. Niagara clothed in all the majesty of winter's garb is at its best. This is a delightful week-end resort, comfortable, home-like hotels convenient to depot.

Excursion ticket good going 7.50 a.m., returning until Monday. Niagara Falls \$2.25, Buffalo, \$2.70.