

vain to obtain a Government position. I myself wrote in his favour to the Civil Service Commission; he received an application blank which he filled in and returned; and that is the last he has heard of it.

At all events I hope the Government will see to it that these brave men are properly treated; it is certainly due them.

Now, if our returned soldiers deserve a good treatment, those who are here should not suffer hardship at the hands of the Government.

All during last Winter the people along the north shore of the St. Lawrence, from Tadoussac to the confines of Labrador were without communication with the outside world, and I claim that this was due to unjust treatment on the part of the Government. For a number of years the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier had granted a yearly subsidy of some thousands of dollars for the service between Tadoussac and St. Catherine's Bay. It is the only line of communication open between these people of the Saguenay and the rest of the country.

Last year the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir G. Foster) withdrew this subsidy. Since last Summer I have done my best to obtain from the Government the money necessary for a boat to continue this service, but all my efforts brought nothing; meanwhile I had recourse to the hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier because I understood how urgent it was for these worthy people along the north shore to have some means of communication with the rest of the country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave me a letter which I am about to read, in English, and I pray you Mr. Speaker, to be indulgent towards my pronunciation. This letter was addressed to the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce because the Minister has left for Europe with the Prime Minister:

Ottawa Nov. 12th 1918.

My dear O'Hara,

Dr. Savard, M.P., for Chicoutimi & Saguenay informs me that he is here to obtain the continuation of a subsidy for a ferry crossing of the Saguenay river between Ste-Catherine and Tadoussac.

This subsidy was granted by the late government some twelve years ago and perhaps more. I understand that it is now proposed to drop it. It is certainly most unfortunate.

I am well acquainted with the locality and the reason for which I pressed upon Sir Richard who was then Minister of Trade and Commerce, was that in winter the people on both sides of the Saguenay are absolutely shut off from civilization. This is particularly hard upon the people of Tadoussac, which is a place of some considerable importance. In winter they are without any kind of steam communication either by rail or vessel, except by this ferry.

I do not know who is your minister in the

absence of Sir George Foster. I would ask you to place these facts before him.

Your sincerely  
Wilfrid Laurier.

Now, here is the Deputy Minister's reply:

Ottawa, Nov., 15th 1918.

St. Catherine's Bay and Tadoussac.

Dear Mr. Savard,

I beg to state that I to-day brought the matter of the St. Catherine's Bay and Tadoussac service to the attention of the Honourable A. K. Maclean, Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce, and he is of the opinion that he cannot recommend this vote in view of the stand taken by Sir George Foster in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

F. C. T. O'Hara,  
Deputy Minister.

As you see, the acting minister, in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, refused to do justice to a region which comprises all the people from Tadoussac to Labrador, where there are a considerable number of parishes. The only communication they had with the outside world in winter was to receive their mail every three, four, five, six, seven or eight days.

A short while ago I received a letter from Tadoussac which said:

For the last eight days we have received no mail from Quebec. The last newspapers to hand are dated the 12th, and to-day is the 19th. We shall get them when Providence wishes us to. That is the way we are being treated.

There is a contract awarded for carrying the mails between St. Siméon, in Charlevoix county, and Tadoussac, but the mails are only brought through when the thing is possible—their delivery is not compulsory—that is, when the river can be crossed in a canoe or a dory, in very calm weather, for, as you know, during the Winter it is very difficult to make this trip in a small boat.

Well, I feel bound to register a protest against the unjust treatment meted out to these worthy people of the north shore.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before I close my remarks, I wish to ask the Government if it is their intention to encourage agriculture. If so, they could do no better than to provide for an experimental farm in the region of Lake St. John, rightly called "the granary of Quebec."

We have already round Lake St. John about thirty of the most thriving parishes of which nobody can get an idea without visiting them. We could establish as many more of those parishes along the valley of Lake St. John and I am perfectly satisfied that an experimental farm there would be of great benefit for the farmers.

With regard to the appointment of post-