

I know I have the endorsement of the people who are served by the rural mail delivery in my constituency in urging that the carriers should be given holidays. They were granted a holiday last year on New Years Day, it was the only holiday they had in the year, and I want to urge strongly again that the government consider granting them holidays. I said last year that I was not in favour of the proposal to change the tender system to one on a mileage basis. I endorse the tender system because I believe it is a sound practice to follow in the expenditure of public money. I believe there is very great discrimination between the mail carrier in the rural districts, and the man who delivers mail in the urban centres. The latter is not placed on the tender system at all.

Mr. LAPIERRE: How many holidays in the year would you be in favour of.

Mr. ROSS (Simcoe): For the rural carrier?

Mr. LAPIERRE: Yes.

Mr. ROSS (Simcoe): All the legal holidays. I am prepared to do without my mail at such times in order that they shall get these holidays, and I know all the people in the country feel very much the same. The letter carrier in the city not only gets two weeks vacation, besides the regular holidays, but he also receives a uniform. These are privileges that are not granted the rural man at all. I understand the minister to say that 125 applications had been made for rural mail delivery and that none had been granted. I hope the time will come when further extensions will be possible. I observe an item in the post office estimates of \$15,504 to provide for the payment of letter carriers in cities and towns. Is that for an extension to some place?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. ROSS (Simcoe): And it is for letter carriers?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. ROSS (Simcoe): I am not opposing it, only I feel there is discrimination all along the line. If \$15,500 can be found for the letter carriers in the urban centres why cannot we get a grant for the rural districts? In the cities the people to be served live within a mile or a mile and a half of the post office, whereas in the county of Simcoe—and it is characteristic of rural Ontario—the people live from seven to eight and ten miles from the post office and cannot get an extension of mail service at all. I sincerely hope that next

[Mr. Ross.]

session further provision will be made for mail deliveries in rural districts. I have in mind a locality where they have rural mail delivery where the people are seven miles from the nearest post office. There are forty persons living in this district, and the one who is nearest to his box, which is placed where the carrier comes along, is yet a mile away from it. The others vary from that up to two and one-half and some of them three miles away from their boxes. The needs of these people should have been considered long ago. I do not favour the suggestion that was made that, in the winter time, the service should be just every other day or every third day. I am strongly in favour of keeping the service as it is, because most of the time the carriers can get along, and on days when they cannot get around, no complaints come from the rural people.

Mr. STANSELL: As regards the request for holidays, a gentleman representing himself as the secretary of the Rural Mail Carriers' Association has many times interviewed me stating that one of the things that the rural mail carriers desired was all the regular holidays, but the mail carriers themselves have not made many requests of that kind, and I am inclined to think that the mail carriers are more concerned about getting a living wage for what they do than about getting numerous holidays. This can be easily understood when one knows that the delivery of mail does not require a full day, so that the mail carrier has a part of each working day which he can use as a holiday or in such other manner as he sees fit. We have also to consider the rights of the people who are getting mail. There is a great difference between the man in the city or town and the man in the country. If the mail was not delivered daily in the city or town, the people would get their daily papers just the same. But when the rural mail carrier does not make his trip, the man in the country does not get his daily paper. If we are going to make farmers and rural dwellers generally satisfied and contented on the land, they must have some of the conveniences, and the daily mail is one thing that makes life partly worth living in the rural sections. I am not inclined to agree with the Acting Postmaster General (Mr. Stewart) when he states that this rural mail delivery was adopted too soon. I am surprised to hear that 125 applications for rural mail routes have been made and that nothing is being done to create them. I understood the hon. member for Saltcoats (Mr. Sales) to say that they have nothing of that kind in his constituency.