

the Postmaster General (Mr. Murphy) has to say.

Mr. THOMAS SALES (Saltcoats): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Evans) has referred to Melville and Saskatoon; I would like to draw attention to the condition at Melville. The resolution says there should be no discrimination against the Canadian National, but I would like to say there should be no discrimination against the Canadian public. When a man can leave on a train from an important centre like Melville and arrive in Ottawa twenty-three hours earlier than mail which left Melville on the same train, he is not getting service; to my mind it is a discrimination against the public. Mail leaving Saskatoon, Melville and all other stations between that point and Winnipeg, eastbound, reaches Winnipeg at ten o'clock in the morning, after the Canadian Pacific train has left. The mail is therefore, held over, as I understand it, in Winnipeg until the departure of the Canadian Pacific train the following morning, making its arrival here twenty-three hours later than it should be. The westbound situation is a little different. The mail for Melville and stations between Winnipeg and Saskatoon leaves here on the Canadian Pacific and upon arrival at Winnipeg is transferred to the Yorkton and Minnedosa line. The mail for Melville is carried as far as Yorkton and reaches Melville at five o'clock in the afternoon—that is my information from the people there. If it was carried straight through on the Canadian National it would be in Melville before eight o'clock in the morning, which would give time for the answering of business letters, but when it reaches there at five o'clock in the afternoon it is too late for attention that day. The situation with regard to Toronto is being dealt with, but I did feel that it would be of interest to the House to know the facts as regards all the stations between Winnipeg and Saskatoon on the Canadian National. As has been pointed out, perhaps the present service is a development of the old service before what is the present Canadian National line was built. If that is so it is no reason why this condition should continue from year to year, especially since the matter has been drawn to the attention of the department—and it was drawn to their attention very forcibly last year.

Hon. CHARLES MURPHY (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, if no other hon. gentleman desires to discuss the resolution which has been moved by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ward), I would like the in-

dulgence of the House for a short time while I offer some observations regarding it and what has been said in connection with it by the hon. members who have already spoken.

In the first place, Sir, allow me to thank the hon. members who have taken part in the discussion for the appreciation which they have expressed of the desire of the Post Office Department to meet the public needs and to afford the people of this country prompt, efficient and satisfactory postal service. In this connection I should also add a word of appreciation of the admission made both by the mover of the resolution and by the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Stewart) who stated frankly that there was no discrimination. The hon. member for Humboldt said he thought there might perhaps be a happier choice of a word for the purpose than the word "discrimination" used in the motion. As to that I take no exception; I regard it as a reflex of certain statements that were made last session before a committee of the House by a railroad official who was insufficiently informed on the subject and who consequently misled—unintentionally, I am sure—the members of the committee as well as members of the House. Had the committee seen fit to ask for an explanation from the Post Office Department they would have obtained the facts then in pretty much the same way as the hon. member for Humboldt has given them to the House this afternoon, and as they could be given, by the officials who are technically informed on these subjects, to any hon. gentleman who desired special information about some special railway mail service. For information of this kind and for the data that he may present to the House or to a committee of the House, the minister is, of course, wholly dependent upon the officials of the department.

Now, briefly, there is no discrimination. That has been admitted by the gentleman who was responsible for that impression gaining ground, when he took part in a conference held about a month ago in the Post Office Department with certain officials representing the Canadian National Railway and certain officials representing the Post Office Department. At that conference we took the precaution of having the statements there made taken down in shorthand, and I will read for the information of the House what the railway official in question said on that occasion with regard to the charge of discrimination. He said:

I do not say we are discriminated against—I did not say that. I have not used that term at any time. I said the present service was the result of the growth of service—the present service is the result