

clauses of the Bill referring to newspaper postage and to the reduction of the rates in the postage on American and Canadian letters.

Mr. BERTRAM. The suggestion made by the Postmaster General that Montreal and Toronto should be included as points for dealing with the dead letter matter that is now sent to Ottawa, is, I think, one of those internal reforms that might very well be adopted. I was much surprised indeed to hear that the quantity of such matter sent from Toronto to Ottawa was so large, amounting to nearly 5,000 letters monthly, or 60,000 a year. It seems to me that it is a waste of time to send those letters to Ottawa for the purpose of being opened and dealt with, it would be a great convenience to the writers if they were dealt with in the Toronto post office, where, I think, the officials are just as well qualified to deal with those letters that are improperly addressed and have to be opened as are the officials in the city of Ottawa. Therefore, I hope that this reform, which will be of so much benefit to the general public, will be carried out.

Mr. SPROULE. It appeared to me there were two objects in view in making this change. One was to expedite the business and get it off the hands of the department as early as possible, and to make the delay between the posting of the letter and its return as short as possible. The other object was to lessen the expense of carrying such matter from all over the country to one centre, both of which are no doubt very proper objects. But if the latter object is one of the problems, I would suggest to the Postmaster General that he could reduce that by refusing to allow the members of Parliament to send their little trunks or stationery boxes home through the post office, as these must weigh fifteen or twenty pounds. I am informed they are being sent even as far as Manitoba and the North-west Territories through the post office. It seems to me to be an abuse of the system to send such heavy packages as that by mail, they ought to be sent either by express or by freight.

Amendments concurred in, and Bill read the third time and passed.

#### NORTH-WEST IRRIGATION ACTS.

Bill (No. 146) to amend and consolidate the North-west Irrigation Acts of 1894 and 1895, was read the second time, and the House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

On section 51,

Mr. DAVIN. Is it not the intention at an early period to place this whole question of irrigation under the local government? I

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON.

presume the Minister does not contemplate using other than existing officers to carry out the provisions, for instance, of this section?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The intention is, as far as possible, that the local work and scientific work shall be carried out by the Public Works Department of the local administration. The only officer in the service of the Government who has had extensive experience and made a thorough study of irrigation is Mr. Dennis. He is the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works of the North-west Territories, and the intention is, as far as possible, in the early stages of the operation of the Act, to allow it to be carried out under his charge.

Committee rose and reported progress.

#### ACT RESPECTING THE JUDGES OF THE PROVINCIAL COURTS.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick) moved that the House resolve itself into committee on a certain proposed resolution declaring it expedient to amend the Act respecting the judges of provincial courts, and to provide as follows:—

That the salary of an additional judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario shall be \$5,000 per annum.

That the salaries of fourteen puisne judges of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec, whose residences are fixed at Montreal and Quebec (including the judge to whom the district of Terrebonne is assigned), shall be each \$5,000 per annum.

That the salary of an additional judge of the Superior Court of Quebec shall be \$4,000 per annum.

That the salary of an additional judge of the Circuit Court of the district of Montreal shall be \$3,000 per annum.

That the salary of the judge of the Supreme Court of the Yukon Territory shall be \$4,000 per annum.

That on and after 1st July, 1898, the salaries of the judges and junior judges of the county courts of Ontario, other than the judge of the County Court of the county of York, shall be each \$2,000 per annum during the first three years of service, and after three years of service each \$2,400 per annum.

That on and after the said date the salary of the judge of the County Court of the county of Halifax shall be \$3,000 per annum.

That on and after the said date, in Prince Edward Island, the salary of the judge of the County Court of Queen's County shall be \$3,000 per annum, and the salaries of two other county court judges each \$2,000 per annum during the first three years of service, and after three years of service each \$2,400 per annum.

That to each of the judges of the Court of Queen's Bench in the province of Quebec, for attending the said court for a part only of a term, or for the purpose of disposing of cases already heard, or for attending for the performance of any other judicial duty, or attending at Montreal or Quebec at the written request of the chief justice or judge performing the duties