

until the next session of Parliament, and it has all the protection of the Treasury Board and of Parliament immediately upon its re-assembling to rectify any wrong that may be done. The press itself, if I understand their opinions on this question, do not look upon a maximum rate of one cent as being too high if imposed upon mail matter that travels from sea to sea. I notice that the cause given for not accepting our amendment is one that I mentioned when we were discussing the matter on a former occasion. It places the Government and the Post Office Department in the unfortunate position of not being able to impose or collect any revenue. I notice, however, that that point may possibly be covered by the latter clause of the hon. gentleman's amendment; but notwithstanding that, I cannot help thinking that it would be in the interest of the press itself to accept the proposition made by the Government through the Post Office Department and wait until next session of Parliament to rectify any wrongs which they may think have been inflicted on any class of newspapers that passes through the post office.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I have taken no part in the debate on this very important question—because it has developed into a very important question. My hon. friend says he thinks that the proposition of the Government agreeing to make the maximum one cent should be accepted. I take exception to that entirely, because the present rate has been a quarter of a cent, and you propose to raise it to four times as much by the Postmaster General.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—But they all acknowledge that it is not high enough.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Some acknowledge it. My information is that one or two papers in Canada, known as the dollar dailies, are the ones that load up the mails. They are not newspapers in the ordinary sense, but are advertising sheets sent out by hundreds of thousands to clog the mails and interfere with the legitimate circulation through the mails of the local papers which ought to cover the territory as newspapers. The Postmaster General has found that he is operating his department at a loss, and he asks to increase the rates on the man who is occupying a legitimate field in order to overcome the deficit caused by carrying those advertising sheets, the dollar dailies. I am informed that that is the

exact state of affairs; and if so, and if the Postmaster General is seeking to overcome the situation by putting a tax on those newspapers occupying a legitimate field, and make them pay for the circulation of those advertising sheets, the dollar dailies, all over Canada, I think Parliament should be consulted. I am opposed on principle to action by the Governor in Council; I am opposed in principle to action by the minister. I do not think the Treasury Board is sufficient, because the Treasury Board in my opinion simply means the Postmaster General.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—The Parliament of Canada have up to the present time decided on the rates to be charged. There have been no particular complaints up to the present time, and I believe those complaints originated with the dollar daily—those advertising sheets of which I have spoken. The Postmaster General suggests that he should have the right to raise the rates on newspapers sufficiently high to meet the deficiency. I do not think that should be allowed. I think the Parliament of Canada should control the rates, and that the Postmaster General should not have that power, particularly in this case, for I am informed by newspaper men that the Postmaster General has said to some of them: 'You are opposing my legislation; I propose to fix you.' I do not propose to put the newspaper men in Canada in such a position that any minister 'can fix them.' I agree to the amendment. This House the other day sent down a Bill not properly equipped because the Postmaster General was put out of business, there being no provision for the collection of his revenue; but this amendment allows him to collect his revenue the same as before, and therefore I am strongly in favour of the amendment proposed by the hon. gentleman from Toronto.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—As the leader of the Government has said, the question of principle is the one which we have to decide; Parliament or Postmaster General—which should rule in this matter? Should we change a system which has been in operation for over fifty years? I congratulate my friend the senator from Belleville (Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell), for whom I have the greatest respect, on his conversion to a view different from what he had when this matter was before the Banking and Commerce Committee. Mr.