

tion to ask that the reference in the Bill to Algoma be eliminated. That is to say there will be no exceptional treatment as to Algoma and therefore the Bill will be applicable simply to certain counties in British Columbia and the province of Quebec.

Progress reported.

POST OFFICE ACT—AMENDMENT.

Bill (No. 153) to further amend the Post Office Act—Sir William Mulock—was read the second time and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1,

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. This section abolishes the office of chief inspector for the Dominion.

Mr. CLARKE. Who is to discharge the duties formerly discharged by that officer?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. There has been no chief inspector acting for some years.

Mr. SPROULE. Are you going to appoint a new one to take the place of the former one?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. This does not mean an additional appointment. I have not had any chief inspector since the death of Mr. Sweatman. That office is being abolished.

Mr. SPROULE. Then it is not intended that the chief superintendent shall do the work?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The chief superintendent has to do only with the city post offices.

Section agreed to.

On section 3,

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. At the present time, besides chief inspectors and post office inspectors, we have assistant post office inspectors, who frequently conduct examinations and inquiries; so does the chief city superintendent. It is proposed to give to the assistant post office inspector as well as to the chief city superintendent the same powers that were given to inspectors, namely, to hold inquiries and to examine persons on oath or affirmation.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—appointment of superintendent,

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. It is proposed to have a superintendent in each post office where the revenue reaches \$500,000. The only post offices which at present will come under that designation are those of Toronto and Montreal. The post office revenue of Toronto is approaching, if it has not already reached, \$1,000,000. Montreal is a good second.

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Mr. CLARKE. How many offices are there in which the revenue is over \$400,000?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I do not think there are any besides Toronto and Montreal. The revenue of Winnipeg this year will be nearly \$250,000. At present this clause is applicable only to two offices.

Mr. CLARKE. The intention, then, is to appoint a superintendent in the Toronto post office and one in Montreal post office at a salary of \$1,800 a year?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Yes; it will be a promotion.

Mr. CLARKE. Who at present does the work which the superintendent is to do?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. The work is done by the various officers.

Mr. HAGGART. Should not his duties be defined?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I do not think it is necessary to define them. There is nothing in the law defining the duties of any of the officials. The duties are assigned to them by their superior officers.

Mr. CLARKE. Will this officer have precedence over the deputy postmaster?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. No; he will be subordinate to the assistant postmaster.

Mr. KEMP. Will he be under the instructions of the postmaster and the assistant postmaster?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. This officer will be as much under the orders of the postmaster as any other officer in the post office. The postmaster is left to organize his staff, getting the most use he can out of them. There is no exception made in the case of the superintendent. So far as I have anything to do with the superintendent, I shall deem it my duty to promote to this office the man best qualified to discharge what would ordinarily be understood to be the duties of such an officer. He will be an intermediate officer, between a first-class clerk and the assistant postmaster.

Mr. MACLEAN. This officer will probably meet the case I have in view. I have seen the Toronto post office practically administered by a very young but very competent man, doing first-class work, and getting about \$600 a year. I believe that has happened in several of the post offices of this country. If this clause will permit a man of that kind to receive a reward in keeping with the services he discharges, I think it will be a good move.

Section agreed to.

On section 6,

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Under the Act of 1902, it is made optional with letter