

adopted. In the United States one sees before every farmer's house, on each free delivery route, a mail-box, which is visited daily by a government carrier, who delivers and collects mail, gives receipts for registered letters, takes money for postal orders and sells stamps, post cards and stamped envelopes. The system has been attended with considerable outlay in the United States. I have not examined any report later than 1904, and in that year the postal routes numbered 25,000, and the expense of maintaining them was no less than \$12,500,000. Since then I believe that there has been considerable increase. There is, of course, some compensation in the reduction of the number of post offices and ordinary stage routes. The cost of a system of rural mail delivery depends altogether upon the standard. In the United States each route must comprise at least 100 families, and the length must not exceed 25 miles. The time has arrived when we should make a beginning in Canada. It must be preceded with proper inquiry as to cost, and as to the standard which should be adopted. I submit, therefore, as another article,

The improvement of existing postal facilities, especially in newly developed portions of the country, and the inauguration, after proper inquiry as to cost, of a system of free rural mail delivery.

The fiscal policy of the Conservative party has been announced on many occasions since 1878, and while constantly adhering to the principles then laid down, it necessarily has given consideration to new conditions arising out of the development and progress of the country. While realizing the prime importance of agriculture in a country like Canada, whose natural resources comprise vast and diversified areas of richly fertile soil, suitable for the cultivation of every product of the farm, we realize also the boundless undeveloped wealth of our forests, our mines and our fisheries, and we do not forget that Providence has endowed this country with every resource necessary for the development and support of great manufacturing industries. Our policy is based upon considerations of advantage not to any class or section, but to the people and the country as a whole.

Thus it necessarily takes account of the interests of the consumer; but it also aims at the maintenance within our borders of a large industrial population who shall receive a fair living wage, and who shall not be reduced to the low standard of living.