

NATS :

Messieurs

Amyot,	Ferguson (Welland),	Mitchell,
Audet,	Fiset,	Moncrieff,
Bain (Soulanges),	Flynn,	Montplaisir,
Beausoleil,	Gauthier,	Munlock,
Bergeron,	Geoffrion,	Neveu,
Bergin,	Gigault,	Perry,
Bernier,	Godbout,	Préfontaine,
Bourassa,	Grandbois,	Prior,
Bryson,	Guay,	Purcell,
Burdett,	Hickey,	Putnam,
Cameron,	Ives,	Rinfret,
Cargill,	Jones,	Riopel,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	Jones (Halifax),	Robillard,
Cartwright (Sir Rich.),	Labelle,	Rykert,
Casey,	Landerkin,	Ste. Marie,
Casgrain,	Landry,	Small,
Choquette,	Langelier (Montmor'cy),	Sproule,
Chouinard,	Langelier (Quebec),	Taylor,
Cimon,	Langevin (Sir Hector),	Thérien,
Cockburn,	La Rivière,	Tisdale,
Cock,	Lavergne,	Trow,
Corby,	Lépine,	Turcot,
Coulombe,	Mackenzie,	Tyrwhitt,
Couture,	McCarthy,	Vanasse,
Daoust,	McOulla,	Wallace,
Davies,	McIntyre,	Wilnot,
Denison,	McKay,	Wilson (Argenteuil),
Desjardins,	McMillan (Vaudreuil),	Wilson (Elgin),
Dessaint,	Marshall,	Wood (Brockville),
Doyon,	Mason,	Yeo.—92.
Dupont,	Mills (Bothwell),	

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 85) to incorporate the Moose Jaw, Battleford and Edmonton Railway Company.—(Mr. Macdowall.)

Bill (No. 86) to incorporate the Saskatchewan Railway and Mining Company.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Bill (No. 87) to amend the Act to incorporate the Quebec Board of Trade.—(Mr. McGreevy.)

Bill (No. 88) to incorporate the Edmundston and Florenceville Railway Company.—(Mr. Lat dry.)

Bill (No. 89) to amend the charter of incorporation of the Great North-West Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Daly.)

Bill (No. 90) respecting the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company, and the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway Company.—(Mr. Bell.)

Bill (No. 91) to permit the conditional release of First Offenders in certain cases.—(Sir John Thompson.)

Bill (No. 92) relating to Bills of Lading.—(Sir John Thompson.)

POSTAL SERVICE AMENDMENT ACT.

Mr. HAGGART moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 93) to amend the Act respecting the Postal Service. He said: There are several important amendments in this Bill. The first change introduced is for the purpose of compelling steamboats navigating Canadian waters to carry Her Majesty's mails, or persons travelling with them, at such rate as the Postmaster General may order them to be carried, or on such terms as the Governor General in Council may prescribe. The object of this clause is, instead of giving subsidies to different lines of steamboats for carrying the mails, to fix the price of carrying the mails in all inland waters on some fixed principle, either by the weight of the matter carried, or according to distance, or in some other form that may be prescribed by a board selected for that purpose, or, in other words, to give the Government the same power of carrying the mails on the inland waters as they have now on the railways throughout the Dominion. The second clause is an amend-

ment of section 2 of the Post Office Act. This section has been amended so as to include decoy letters, that is, letters posted by the inspectors or other officers of the department. It was thought that decoy letters did not come within the ordinary meaning of letters, and it is for the purpose of punishing parties who steal them the same as when they steal other letters. There is another verbal change which is intended to include parcels which are mailed in English post offices. The third paragraph is an amendment to section 9 of the Act, letter *d*. It is for the purpose of excluding immoral publications, or immoral photographs, and to make the punishment the same and the forfeiture the same. The second paragraph is an amendment to section 9, letter *k*. It is repealed, and it gives the Postmaster General power to prescribe and enforce the rate at which registered letters are carried throughout the Dominion. The object of the clause is to give the Postmaster General power to increase, if thought necessary, the rate placed on registered letters carried from one section of the Dominion to another. The intention of the department at present is to raise the rate and make it similar to the English and American prices for carrying registered letters. Section 20 of the Act allows an increase in the weight of letters to be carried for three cents from half an ounce to an ounce. Section 21 of the said Act is repealed, and a clause is put in which raises the rate of drop letters from one cent per half ounce to two cents per ounce, nearly doubles the rate of drop letters, and makes it similar to the rate in the United Kingdom and the United States, on the same class of letters. In no part of the world that we know of are drop letters posted and delivered at the same rate that they are in Canada. It makes a letter delivered to a postmaster as a drop letter, pay the same charge as similar letters in the United Kingdom and the United States, whether there is a city delivery or not. Section 25 of the said Act is repealed, and the rate of postage on periodicals printed and published in Canada, and issued less frequently than at intervals of seven days remains the same, but it prescribes that a newspaper must be issued at periods not less than seven days, so newspapers can only pass free that are published either daily or weekly, and all published at longer intervals pay a fixed rate of one cent per pound. The next clause amends the definition of a newspaper to make it correspond with the definition in England. The clause afterwards authorises the Postmaster General to make arrangements with foreign countries as to parcel post. The clause after that is for the purpose of making more clear what a dead letter is. The next clause is one that has been amended to suit the altered relations between the Customs Department and the Post Office Department, and to secure the payment of parcel posts passing through the post office, and to facilitate the transmission of the same; also for the purpose of preventing the annoyances to which persons are sometimes subjected at post offices on account of the customs duty. The rest of the clauses regulates the manner and mode of making the printed return to Parliament, in order to make it in accordance with the system on which the post office is managed now, and to eliminate from it all returns which are made at present by the Auditor General.

Mr. TROW. Do I understand the Postmaster General to say that he increases the rate upon drop letters generally 100 per cent.?

Mr. HAGGART. Yes.

Mr. JONES (Halifax). I would ask the Minister whether he proposes to make any provision respecting letters that are not fully paid, whether they cannot be forwarded and the amount collected at their destination, the same as in England? It is frequently very inconvenient, and sometimes attended with a great deal of loss to parties who put on the stamps all right enough, but from the want of adhesive property in the stamps, they get knocked off, and