

We want these inspectors, Mr. Speaker; we have a right to them and the Government should not refuse to give them to us. These inspectors would also ascertain what animals are unfit for breeding and have them killed with the unhealthy cattle.

I once spoke to the former Postmaster General, the Hon. Mr. Pelletier, about a question of public interest and asked him why a law was not passed forbidding people to enclose money in letters which were not registered. For the last twelve years I have been a Crown prosecutor in Montreal and it always pains me to see young folks who come of good families enter the postal service and then be dragged into court for having stolen 50 cents, 75 cents or a dollar from letters which were not registered; in cases of this kind the law does not consider the amount stolen and the minimum sentence that a judge may pronounce is three years in the penitentiary. If such a law were passed temptation would disappear; registered letters are never rifled for the simple reason that they are traced from their point of departure to their destination. Since a law of this kind would bring a little money into the public Treasury it would cause a double advantage, for at the same time it would shield those young people from temptation. The former minister, Mr. Pelletier, promised to give the matter his serious consideration. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, a similar law exists in many countries. Very often these young folks are led astray by their youth; they take a small amount thinking that they will be able to refund it the next day; but if they are caught in the meantime, they are sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of talk about recruiting and I wonder why the hon. Minister of Justice does not send the inmates of our prisons to the front. It appears to me that when we are making every effort to send to the front our young men of education and character it is not asking too much of the Government to send, too, the inmates of our prisons and our penitentiaries. I do not claim that we should send all prisoners to war; such a policy would be dangerous in the case of murderers and cutthroats; but I see no objection to sending those guilty of minor offences. It would be a saving to the country, for each prisoner costs us from \$175 to \$215 a year and they give practically nothing to the State in return. If they were permitted to enlist they would be able to earn something for their families and they should certainly be of more service to the country over there

than they can possibly be in our prison cells. Very recently I asked the hon. Minister of Justice to allow a young man of 27 to enlist; he is serving a prison term for a minor offence and I hope that when the hon. minister is in possession of all the facts he will grant my request. This young man, while making himself useful to the State, will greatly help his family, who are sorely in need of such help.

I regret to keep the attention of the House so long; but I speak so seldom that when I do take the floor I must speak for some length of time if I want my words to matter.

I want to make a brief reply to the hon. member who spoke of corruption this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, every promise we made, we kept. I remember very well in 1893, I was in front of the old House of Commons at that grand reunion when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was chosen as the leader of the Liberal party after the departure of Edward Blake. We had promised to do away with revisers, those gentlemen who went about in the country districts and put on the voting lists the names they chose. I do not say that they were not honest, but when we asked them if so and so, and this fellow and that fellow, were on the list we always found that they were not; and what was rather curious was the fact that those forgotten were always Liberals. Do you know how things were done? These gentlemen used to drive through the country districts in a fine carriage smoking Havana cigars; when they came into a parish they would ask the secretary of the municipality what names should be on the list; and as these secretaries were usually friendly towards the Conservatives, the Liberals suffered.

We did away with these revisers and we placed the voters' lists once more in the hands of the secretary-treasurers of the municipalities. All is now plain sailing and I hope there will never be any change.

A certain number of commercial treaties were repealed. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a shrewd diplomat; he set aside those treaties which were to our disadvantage and passed a number of new treaties which were very much in Canada's favour.

We had promised to reduce the cost of postage stamps and we kept our promise. Three-cent stamps were sold for two and the two-cent stamps dropped to one cent.

When the hon. Postmaster General of those days, Mr. Lemieux, took over the department, the preceding year had witnessed, there, a deficit of \$750,000 and the following year the new minister came out with a million dollar surplus. But it must be said