

see for themselves what rural mail box judges they had in Ottawa. At the show I had the contract box and my own invention set up side by side. One hundred visitors at that Fair, mostly all rural mail patrons, signed in the column headed, The Wilcox box outfit is the best adapted for the Rural Mail Service; the contract box column was a blank from top to bottom.

However, although the contract was let I went to Ottawa again, hoping that I could induce the Post Department to have the New York-Toronto firm substitute my invention for the contract one. I succeeded to the extent that they agreed that if the said firm would consent to such change to come back to Ottawa and they would ratify the deal. It was never ratified, for the reason, I am very sure, that my box would cost more to manufacture than would theirs. In addition to the 450-thousand-dollar contract the company agreed to supply one of their contract box outfit to any patron who had one of the small boxes, first put upon the routes, if he would pay to them one dollar and fifty cents, and the little disc, upon which all their make of boxes rest. The Government was to pay another dollar and a half—three dollars in all, and the little disc worth probably 25 cents. Thousands of extra boxes were sold in such way. So it is evident that the box deal took 150 thousand dollars out of the Ontario farmers mostly that good and square business could and should have prevented, and besides put into his hands a box outfit that is a nuisance, as thousands of farmers and carriers all over Canada well know.

And this is not all of it. After the contract was let E. W. Nesbit, M.P. for North Oxford, called for the record of the deal, and he got it, and in it were copies of four or five letters from as many members of Parliament, and also one from the Mayor of a big Canadian city to P.-M.-G. Pelletier saying, "By all means give the box contract to the New York firm, for they are liberal contributors to the Conservative election fund." Donald Sutherland, M.P. for South Oxford, a farmer and a rural mail patron and a Conservative, was not one of that group of fellows. He had seen both inventions and had operated them at various times, and told the Ottawa Rural Mail Department that he considered my outfit the best. As far as I have been able to find out, he was the only rural mail patron in all Canada who had a chance to give his opinion as to the choice, and the same as respects rural carriers. I was told by many people that I was "wasting my fragrance on the desert air" if I depended on good features in a mail box to get me the order. As a sample:—

While the contract was pending a prominent politician, who evidently knew how to get them, as he was in close touch with headquarters, asked