

Mail Contracts

area, with one exception, when bonuses or supplementary payments have been granted by the department.

I should like to know whether all these applications are considered in Ottawa or whether they are referred to the officers in the city of Winnipeg, for instance. If they are referred to Winnipeg, do you know whether the officials in Winnipeg make any inquiry outside the city of Winnipeg to ascertain whether a man is entitled to a bonus?

Mr. Bertrand (Laurier): I wish to say a word or two in answer. There is no doubt that the argument advanced by the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Miller) is one which proves that we cannot apply the same rule in every part of the country. I understand that around Portage la Prairie the snow is very deep and the weather very cold. Distances are great. Rural mail carriers are working in every part of Canada, and the officer in charge of this branch of the service has many assistants. This officer usually compares what is being paid in that district in which the rural mail couriers are requesting a supplement. A contractor always makes a point of having to climb a hill when his fellow contractors have no hills to climb. The

department receives reports from the officers in this district, and in the case of Portage la Prairie that would be Winnipeg.

I do not know the names of all the inspectors because there are so many. Great care is taken to see that there is justification for refusal if the request is refused. The granting of supplements for fifty-four per cent of the contracts is, I believe, a good indication of that.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Bertrand (Laurier) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 123, to amend the Mail Contracts Supplemental Payments Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Tomorrow we will take up the resolution in the name of the Minister of Agriculture, and then consider second reading of the bill to amend the Canadian Commercial Corporation Act. Then we will consider the bill to amend the Mail Contracts Supplemental Payments Act.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.