

that the Canadian press should make its own selection of the news to be cabled here. I may point out that in connection with the recent elections in England and in connection with the great sporting events we have had a first-class service. The rifle contests at Bisley are also well reported, and if we pay money out of the national treasury to send our volunteers to Bisley we might certainly pay a little to obtain the news of their achievements. The Olympic games are now going on in London and we have made arrangements to get early news of the results. I trust that the cable will be able to announce the success of the Canadian competitors.

Mr. BERGERON. Who are the gentlemen who represent the Canadian press in London?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. There are two of them, but their names I do not remember, although I saw them the other day. I believe they are Canadian newspaper men who have gone to England for that purpose.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I agree with the Minister of Finance that it would be impossible for the government to attempt any censorship of the news which is sent by the association to this country. I suppose the only reasonable way to look at it would be to consider what the news was which came to the Canadian press before this service was instituted and what it would be at present without that service. I am not familiar enough with the subject to venture any opinion as to whether the changes in that respect are so marked as to make it worth while for parliament to continue the grant. I have no doubt the government has considered the subject, and if they believe it to be of sufficient importance I would not be disposed to oppose the grant. I agree entirely as to the very great importance of our having news from the motherland of a distinctive character and not coloured with anything that would be more appropriate for another nation than ours. There has been a good deal of complaint of that in the past, and I think it was that very complaint that led the government to propose to parliament a vote for this service in the first instance. Some complaints have been addressed to me with regard to the character of the news very much along the line mentioned by the Minister of Finance. It was urged that the news was sometimes of an exceedingly trivial character and of little interest to the country generally. I do not think the government can deal very well with that except by submitting the whole subject to the consideration of parliament. It would be very desirable if the area over which this news were spread by the press of the country could be broadened; at the present time it seems to be very much restricted. As my hon. friend from South York suggests, if

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.

more newspapers could be induced to take the news the average cost to the newspapers of the country would be very much reduced, and the project would commend itself more to parliament than it otherwise can. I realize, of course, that that is not within the control of the government; but the government might at least urge upon the members of the association that steps should be taken in that direction. In fact, if it were necessary to alter the conditions of the grant a little in order to widen the area, I think that would be a wise course.

Mr. LENNOX. I have nothing to say in the way of fault-finding in connection with this matter. It is a little difficult to control the character of the news. It is exceedingly important however, that we should have early advice of certain matters transpiring not only in Great Britain but in other parts of the world—financial, industrial and commercial news. One suggestion I would like to impress upon the minister as to which he can probably do something. He has said that the news sometimes appears to be trivial. It is undoubtedly so at times, and what I think should be impressed on those furnishing the news is this, that Canada can only afford to pay for news that is industrially, commercially or nationally important. For instance, we could not very well justify paying very much money for social news, but we can justify paying money for anything that will advance the interests of the great producing classes in Canada, such as the manufacturers and the agriculturists.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1,

Mr. BERGERON. Has my hon. friend ever received any remarks from the French newspapers of Canada in reference to this service? I know that some of the large French newspapers have complained very much about this service because the news all comes in English, even the news from France, and not only have they the trouble of translating it, but the news is so much changed that it is inaccurate. The hon. minister says that since this service was inaugurated we have had no anti-British news. That may be true; I hope it is; but we have a great deal of news, from England, from Rome, and particularly from France, that is anti-Catholic and completely erroneous, as we afterwards learn from the European papers. For these reasons, I think this is a venture that we should not have entered into.

Mr. FIELDING. I have no recollection of having received any protest from the French press on the subject, and certainly I have never received any protest from any source on the ground that the news was