

information as to the possibility of reducing the time. We have been in communication with Mr. Sifton upon this point all along, and I see no objection to it.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it supposed by the government that the Dominion geographer is the man best qualified to get data with reference to trade and traffic matters, such as are involved in this fast line steamship communication, and are his expenses being paid?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. His expenses are paid, and I am informed that he is very competent for that work.

POST OFFICE AT TRENT BRIDGE, EAST NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr. C. L. OWEN (East Northumberland). I would like to ask the right hon. the First Minister, who, I believe, is acting Postmaster General during the absence of Mr. Lemieux, when the post office at Trent Bridge in the county of East Northumberland will be reopened? Early in October the man who had been postmaster there a number of years left for the Northwest. Since then the post office has been closed. This is one of the oldest post offices in the county and its closing puts the farmers to great inconvenience. Some have to drive eight or nine miles to get their mail. Several petitions were sent to the government recommending certain men to be appointed as postmaster, but there were other petitions asking that these men be not appointed. It would be only just to the people in that part of East Northumberland to have this post office reopened as early as possible.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What is the name?

Mr. OWEN. Trent Bridge.

THE GRAIN COMMISSION.

Mr. STAPLES. When will the report of the Royal Grain Commission be brought down? It was promised a few days ago. This is very important information to which our western farmers are looking forward.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have the word of the Minister of Trade and Commerce that this report will be brought down as soon as it is received.

POST OFFICE—PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTS.

Mr. J. D. REID. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) if anything has been done regarding a matter about which I spoke to him a short time ago. Our parliamentary documents are not put in the post office as formerly, but are scattered all over the lobby, which causes great inconvenience to members and also causes loss, through these documents

being appropriated by other people and not returned.

Mr. FIELDING. This is a matter which concerns the Committee of Internal Economy. That committee will meet shortly and deal with it in such a way as to meet the convenience of members.

Motion (Mr. Fielding) agreed to, and House went into Committee of Supply.

Governor General's Secretary's Office—salaries, \$11,937.50; contingencies, including salary of Miss Gilbertson at \$650 per annum, and allowance of \$300 to A. F. Sladen, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act, \$40,600.

Mr. FIELDING. The only change there is an increase in the number of chief clerks from one to two. There are the statutory increases; the net result is an increase of \$50 in the vote.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is to be made chief clerk?

Mr. FIELDING. When we ask for a vote like this it is sometimes not possible to tell who is to be appointed, but in this case I can tell that it is Mr. Walker.

Mr. FOSTER. What is Mr. Walker's present salary?

Mr. FIELDING. \$1,900; the maximum of the first class; he is put in the way of promotion by being given a higher rank.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the other first class clerk?

Mr. FIELDING. The other chief clerk is Mr. C. J. Jones.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is Miss Gilbertson who is mentioned in the item?

Mr. FIELDING. Speaking from memory, Miss Gilbertson is a young lady who came out from England with His Excellency's staff and who consequently had not our civil service certificate.

Mr. FOSTER. It is an evasion of the Civil Service Act.

Mr. FIELDING. Evasion is a hard word; it is a provision to make up for something the Civil Service Act lacks.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the explanation of the \$300 for Mr. Sladen.

Mr. FIELDING. Mr. Sladen, in addition to his rank in the service acts as private secretary to His Excellency, and receives this extra amount in recognition of that fact.

Office of the King's Privy Council of Canada—salaries, \$32,175; contingencies, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act, \$10,000.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the explanation?