

our own ships carrying our own mails, I hope, in the not far distant future. It is certainly objectionable that we should have to pay for our mails being sent from Canada to a foreign port, to pay for landing them in New York, and to pay for having them brought back to Canada. I think this should not be passed over lightly, and I am sure the Postmaster General will see to it that no such mistake shall occur again.

We have heard of a minister in another place stating that an official had been sent by the Government of this country to a place called Portland to ascertain whether it was not a good place at which to land our returned wounded soldiers; and by some misunderstanding, or misjudgment, or want of judgment on the part of that official, our soldiers are landed in Portland and brought from there into Canada, whereas they could be landed at Halifax, in their own country, where they would be greeted by a host of friends. The ladies there have made their homes available for the care of the wounded soldiers. The people there are eager to give the returned soldiers every comfort and every care, and to put them on the trains and send them on their way rejoicing. I think that the selection of Portland was an outrageous mistake, and, whoever was the official responsible, there was no excuse for it. Some official, who did not know his business, was sent down there to inquire into the matter, and somebody got hold of him. He may have had some Scotch—not the kind that is found in Scotland, but the kind that is sold at \$2 a bottle, or has gone up to \$3. Something of that kind must have happened. And that man brought back a report in virtue of which the ships call at Portland.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: What about the man who sent him there?

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: The man who sent him should be held responsible and should be called to account. And I say that this Parliament is responsible for it, and that there is no reason why such things should occur. When war was declared we had ships in which to send our men to the other side to take their parts in the struggle. Our soldiers were taken to the port of Halifax and embarked there, and I challenge any honourable gentleman in this House, or any one in Canada, to say that the soldier was not well treated while he was in Halifax. We heard no complaints whatever. But now that the war is over, there is a desire to send everything somewhere else.

Who ever is responsible for mistakes of this kind should be brought to account, and such mistakes should not be allowed to occur again.

This question of the mails is a very important one. We have on the wall here a map of the Hudson bay, which is useful for almost every purpose. You can see the province of Nova Scotia lying right on the bosom of the Atlantic ocean. You see also the island of Newfoundland. There is a season of the year when ships coming across the Atlantic pass through the straits of Belle Isle, and when they come through those straits they can hardly go past Sydney without stopping there and landing the mails.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: The Cabot straits. Belle Isle is at the north, between Newfoundland and Labrador.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: I think that early in July and perhaps in the latter part of June the ships coming from the Atlantic pass through that way and must come close to Sydney, and all mails for the Dominion of Canada should be landed there, because I believe they can be distributed from there to the different parts of Canada more quickly than in any other possible way.

Hon. Mr. BOURQUE: What about the port of St. John?

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: My honourable friend would starve to death while going from there to St. John.

Hon. Mr. BOURQUE: Compared with Portland, I mean.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: Well, anything is better than Portland. My view is that what we must do is stand by Canada and for Canada all the time, and when we have in Canada the accommodation for receiving the mails we should receive them, even, I claim, if it means a little expense. I would like to say to the honourable the Postmaster General that it would be wise to take into consideration at the very earliest possible opportunity the question of our mails. We are going to have a new order of things—a change in conditions. We have our own railways, we have our own ships, and we shall have other means of transportation, and that is what we want. Let us see to it that our mails are landed at the best possible place, so that they may be distributed in the quickest way to the people all over this country. We should have regard to nothing but the interests of Canada.