

On the same date as the agreement with Power was entered into it was transferred to Messrs. Joseph Kilgour and Charles Miller, of Toronto, and on the 2nd June a further agreement was drawn up and executed by Kilgour and Miller.

The contract stood in the name of Messrs. Kilgour and Miller until 30th September, 1899, when it was assumed by the British Columbia Express Company, of which Joseph Kilgour is president and Charles Miller, solicitor, under a new four year contract, by whom it has been carried on to the present time. This contract was renewed on the 1st October, 1903. Tenders have not been invited since 1897.

The present contract rate is \$23,250, whilst the original contract was for \$23,000, the difference in payment being on account of increased services being performed by the contractors since they entered into their contract.

#### COLLECTIONS IN POST OFFICES—ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

Mr CHISHOLM—by Mr. Sam Hughes—asked :

1. Referring to a statement made on the 27th of February last, by Honourable C. S. Hyman, on behalf of the Postmaster General, that there had been collected by assessment from the postmasters, mail clerks, and those handling the mails for the Dominion, the sum of \$63,349.16, and that the losses so far as ascertained were \$19,909.51, leaving a balance of profit of \$45,992.68, how much of this loss of \$19,909.51 was caused by the postmasters alone? and what is the amount of loss by said postmasters alone in each of the provinces of the Dominion?

2. Is it the intention of the Post Office Department to continue this system of assessment? If so, will they reduce the assessments to meet the requirements of the actual losses?

3. Is the same assessment made on a postmaster whose salary is \$500 a year as on a postmaster whose salary is \$1,500 a year? If so, why?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (for the Postmaster General):

1. Statement of losses by provinces on account of postmasters made good out of post office guarantee fund:

Ontario.. . . .	\$ 315 69
Quebec.. . . .	343 19
Nova Scotia.. . . .	113 25
New Brunswick.. . . .	36 04
Prince Edward Island....	15 44
Manitoba.. . . .	
Northwest Territories....	264 33
British Columbia.. . . .	2,686 44
Yukon.. . . .	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,824 38

2. Yes. The department's policy is to conduct the system on safe lines, and will increase or reduce the rate of assessment as experience appears to demand.

3. No. The amount of insurance is based upon the revenue of the office, not the

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

salary of the postmaster, in accordance with the following scale:

'Every accounting postmaster, the revenue of whose office is under \$2,000 a year, is required to give security to the extent of \$800. Where the revenue exceeds \$2,000 a year, but is less than \$5,000, the insurance required is \$1,200. Where it exceeds \$5,000 but is less than \$10,000 a year, the insurance required is \$1,600. Where it exceeds \$10,000 a year, but is less than \$15,000, the insurance required is \$2,000. Where it exceeds \$15,000 but is less than \$25,000, the insurance required is \$2,500. Where the revenue exceeds \$25,000, except in the cities of Montreal and Toronto, the insurance required is \$3,000. In the case of the cities of Montreal and Toronto, the insurance required is \$5,000. Each postmaster of a non-accounting post office is required to give \$200 security, and if the estimated revenue of his office does not exceed \$100 a year, it is optional with him to give bonds or to accept the assessment system.

#### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. Borden thereto.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). Mr. Speaker. After hearing the very full discussion on this Bill by members on both sides of the House; a discussion from a constitutional standpoint, the standpoint of public policy and from the standpoint of political exigencies by some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, it is not with the idea that I can add anything of a very original character that I propose for a short time to continue the debate. However, being a western man; a resident of Manitoba for the past 22 years, quite naturally I take a great interest in anything pertaining to the welfare of our great western heritage, and my ideas are not so provincial that I desire to limit that interest to matters mainly connected with the province of my adoption. In looking over the history of our country I think there are few of us but must admit, in the light of past experience, that there are some things that we might very well improve upon had we the drafting of our constitution anew. The great fathers of confederation who in their united wisdom consolidated into one mighty whole the numerous provinces of this splendid Dominion are deserving of every eulogium that can possibly be bestowed on them. They had many intricate and delicate questions to cope with, prejudices to overcome, rights and privileges to safeguard and protect, divers views to harmonize—and all honour