

ing opinions may, under a rule of freedom frankly accepted, find a resting place.

We shall, Mr. Speaker, find that common ground by lending a helping hand to those who wish to protect the rights of the minority in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Sir Wm. Mulock, the House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, April 19, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 136) to incorporate the Anthracite Coal Railway Company.—Mr. Galliher.

QUESTIONS.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND THE MAINLAND.

Mr. LEFURGEY—by Mr. Lancaster—asked :

1. Has the Minister of Marine and Fisheries received a petition from certain travellers going to Prince Edward Island this year alleging that they were detained at Pictou some forty or fifty days, owing to the winter steamers 'Minto' and 'Stanley' not maintaining communication between Pictou, Nova Scotia, and Georgetown, Prince Edward Island, and asking the government to refund their expenses for board and lodging while so delayed ?

2. If so, is it the intention of the government to grant the prayer of said petition ?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals) :

1. Yes.

2. No.

THE TRANSMISSION OF MONEY BY MAIL.

Mr. GAUVREAU—by Mr. Louis Laverge—asked :

Has the attention of the Honourable the Postmaster General been drawn to that which appeared in the 'Daily Telegraph' and 'Le Soleil,' of Quebec, under date the 12th April instant, the 'Daily Telegraph' expressing itself as follows ? :

Sending money by mail.

There are so many safe and easy ways of transmitting money by mail nowadays that it is simply subject for wonder why such a multitude of people still persist in sending it in ordinary letters, without even taking the precaution of getting these registered. Very often these letters are lost or stolen. True the thieves are nearly always detected and pun-

Mr. PAQUET.

ished, but while this is satisfactory enough from the public point of view, it gives poor comfort to the losers of the money, who may frequently be in sore need of it. Another aspect of the matter, however, calls for serious consideration. While the postal authorities are engaged in tracing out the guilty parties, it is no unusual thing for suspicion to rest on honest and perfectly honourable employees, and the knowledge that such is the case and that they are kept, so to speak, under a surveillance which is painful to them as it is insulting, naturally tends to make their lives miserable and to engender in them disgust for their employment. It is certainly not in the public interest that so undesirable a state of things as this should continue any longer, especially as there are so many ways of sending money through the post with absolute safety by registered letter, by insured registered letter, by money order or by postal note, upon all of which the rates have been so greatly reduced that they are within every one's reach, and the money, if lost, can always be recovered.

Why then people should persist in entrusting money to the uncertain and dangerous channel of ordinary letters is beyond comprehension. Under the circumstances we would take the liberty of suggesting to the Honourable the Postmaster General, who has already made so many improvements in our postal service, to make another and an equally needful one in this important particular, which might be done either by giving it to be publicly understood that no special trouble will be taken to trace ordinary letters containing money that are lost or stolen, or by passing a Bill at the present session imposing a fine upon all persons sending money in ordinary letters. This last measure would have the double effect of protecting the public and rendering existence more agreeable to the honest postal employees, who have to suffer from the present deplorable state of affairs. We sincerely trust to see favourable consideration given to this matter by the Postmaster General, and at the same time we would strongly advise our readers never to send money through the mails, no matter how small the amount, in a letter that is not registered or insured, or by some of the other safe methods above indicated.

'Le Soleil,' of Quebec, of the same date, publishes the following :

The transmission of money by mail.

A great number of people have the very bad habit of sending money in letters that are not registered. Several of such letters go astray or are lost. It is true that the thieves always end by being caught, but in the meantime it often happens that suspicion hangs over perfectly honest employees, and when these latter become aware of it they take a dislike for their positions and lead a miserable existence.

There are, however, many safe ways of sending money by mail, such as by registered letter, insured letters (lettres assurées), post office orders and drafts. The tariff for these different forms has been considerably reduced in order to induce the public to make use of them. Yet, how many people still persist in sending money in ordinary letters.

We therefore take the liberty of suggesting to the Honourable the Postmaster General, who has already improved so much the postal service, to have a law passed, during the present session, that will impose a fine on all those imprudent, not to say stupid, people who send money in letters that are not registered. Such