

have no more right to allow the public funds placed at my disposal to be wasted than a private trustee has to allow the private funds in his hands to be wasted.

The principle laid down in this paragraph no one will object to. It is not only a policy, but it is the principle on which every minister should administer the affairs of his department. I fully concur in all he says, but I cannot help thinking that the statement in the lights of events partake a very great deal of the nature of that famous character in one of Dickens's works known as Pecksniff. He was a very honourable man, a very grave man, and a man of noble sentiments and speech; so is the Postmaster General as portrayed in the paragraph which I have read; and if he acted upon that principle—as I will prove before I get through he has not done—every man in Canada would approve of his policy. But the position he occupies in this matter of the reduction of one city post office to a town office, and the reason he has given in the paragraph, I think is somewhat analogous to the answer given by Dr. Jonson when he was asked why he mis-spelt a certain word in his dictionary, his reply was, "Ignorance, sheer ignorance." So it is precisely with the Postmaster General in this matter, either that, or he has selected a conservative city, represented by a conservative, for the purpose of punishing and degrading the Belleville post office from a city office to a town office; or he did not know, or never took the trouble to inquire into the relative position, so far as expenditure is concerned, between the city of Belleville and the other city post offices in the Dominion of Canada. I may say, before leaving this point, that the Postmaster General in this same letter has selected other places—Brantford, Brockville, Chatham, Galt, Guelph, Peterborough, St. Catharines, St. Thomas, Stratford, Woodstock—all town offices—and he has compared the percentage of expenditure with the receipts of the post office at Belleville, and that alone. If he had desired to make a fair comparison—I was going to say an honest comparison—he should have taken the different cities in the Dominion. The cities are placed under the Civil Service Act, and I admit they are much more expensive than when paid as the offices to which I have called attention; and more than that, if any one will take the trouble to look at these towns that he has

selected, he will find that the correct figures are not given, the contingent expenses not being added to the general expenditure, and thereby making the percentage much less. Let us look at the different city post offices in the whole Dominion. I have in my hand a statement showing the offices, the revenue, the salaries, the contingencies, the total paid, the net revenue, and the percentages. I will not weary the House by reading all these figures, but will hand it to the reporter, and content myself with giving the cities and the percentages which will be sufficient to establish the point which I make.

Office.	Revenue.	Salaries.	Contingencies.	Total Paid.	Net Revenue.	Per Cent.
Toronto	\$361,388 17	\$147,156 37	7,877 70	\$155,034 17	\$206,354 00	42 ³ / ₈
Belleville	16,235 58	8,540 81	208 80	8,809 61	7,426 07	54
Kingston	25,473 05	19,900 46	553 90	20,550 36	4,922 69	50
Hamilton	82,631 22	53,650 00	2,149 15	55,799 15	26,832 07	67
London	60,867 50	36,293 82	1,210 50	37,505 82	23,361 68	61
Ottawa	66,281 30	61,960 60	5,040 97	67,001 57	101	Loss \$720,27
Windsor	16,069 49	10,700 00	662 11	11,372 11	4,697 38	55
Montreal	311,701 70	152,928 93	20,650 17	172,579 10	138,722 60	55
Quebec	43,945 80	39,147 61	3,293 39	42,431 00	1,514 80	96
Sherbrooke	16,029 93	5,471 87	616 70	6,088 57	9,941 36	38
Fredericton	12,603 69	6,978 00	39 23	7,073 23	5,530 46	56
St. John	55,463 84	38,129 94	2,067 70	40,197 64	13,266 20	75
Halifax	66,468 13	35,565 31	1,753 23	37,318 54	29,149 59	59
Charlottetown	15,191 35	16,278 03	1,107 86	17,385 89	114	Loss \$2,194.54
Winnipeg	91,417 34	39,504 08	1,568 88	41,063 86	50,353 48	44
Vancouver	32,653 08	12,316 41	1,546 92	12,863 33	19,789 65	39
Victoria	41,509 08	23,749 86	797 28	24,547 14	16,961 94	59
						New office.
						Loss \$2,194.54
						New office.

It will be seen from these figures that the expenditure in Toronto was 42³/₈ per cent of the whole revenue, which I may say was \$361,388.16, and the salaries were \$147,156.47 and so on. Belleville was 54 per cent of the