

from this same gentleman, Mr. B. Russell, who says:

My nominee for Spry Bay post office is Gaspard J. Leslie.

Now, on the same day I find in Mr. Mulock's own handwriting:

Appoint Mr. Russell's nominee.

Where is the investigation in that case? Do my hon. friends seriously pretend that after our friends have been treated that way we shall protect the persons they have put in office and let our own people suffer? Let it be clearly understood that in such cases our friends, if they are still alive, will get back their jobs.

Mr. CARVELL. Suppose they are dead, what then?

Mr. PELLETIER. Then we will pray for them.

Mr. CARVELL. Will the Postmaster General tell us what he will do in case a postmaster is not dead?

Mr. PELLETIER. That is another case; sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. Where the postmaster is proved to have taken an active part in politics he will be dismissed.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Whether on the one side or the other?

Mr. PELLETIER. I am not going to consider a case of such remote possibility as a postmaster fighting his own government.

Mr. CARVELL. You have a good many things to learn.

Mr. PELLETIER. I do not pretend to be a practical politician, but let us take the cases as they will occur.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend says: When an official has taken an active part in politics he will dismiss him. Suppose he finds that before the elections of the 21st of September, the official took an active part on the Conservative side, will he dismiss him?

Mr. PELLETIER. If cases occur of that description, which I do not expect, and which we cannot reasonably expect, we will consider them.

Now as to evidence, I say that it is impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule. I will in all cases accept the word of a member of parliament who comes to me and says that he knows enough to demand that man's dismissal. I do expect, however, that the member of parliament will be fair and just enough, and if he has been elected by his constituents he is considered by them to be fair and honest.

Mr. DEVLIN. Will you take an hon. member's word and retain the office-holder in his position?

Mr. PELLETIER. The hon. member for Wright (Mr. Devlin) should not confront me with such a cruel dilemma. I do not expect—and I will answer his question at the same time as that of the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley)—any of my friends on the opposite side to make any such recommendation, so it is no use discussing that matter at all. If a member of parliament has been deceived—no man can avoid making mistakes, I make mistakes myself, and everybody makes mistakes—if it is found that a mistake or wrong has been committed I will not allow that wrong to remain without rectification.

Mr. CARVELL. Will my hon. friend be good enough to look into the case of the postmistress at Bath at once?

Mr. PELLETIER. I am coming to that. I know of a case—I do not remember the name but I think our good friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce may be able to give it—under the late government, where a member of parliament made a recommendation for the dismissal of an official and a mistake was made. The brother of that officer had taken an active part in the election, and it was discovered that a mistake had been committed, but the late government would not rectify that mistake. I shall not do that. If I make a mistake I shall be broad and manly enough to see that the error is rectified. I have made dismissals, but not with pleasure. I have not dismissed one single postmaster in my own riding, but I have had to dismiss quite a few postmasters in other places and I shall dismiss more; but, in so doing I shall endeavour to keep in view the principles of justice laid down in the resolution unanimously adopted by parliament.

We have been told by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean) that postmasters should not fall under this rule. Why, Sir, this is a brand new doctrine. Why should not postmasters fall under this rule? Do not postmasters know, have they not been told, for the last fifteen years that they come under this rule? Have they not been dismissed by hundreds and hundreds for violating this rule? So they come under it to such an extent that they are not appointed by order in council. Very few postmasters, as my hon. friend from Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) knows, were appointed by order in council. If I mistake not, it is only in cities of 20,000 population or over, that appointments are made in such a way. Now, the postmasters referred to by the member for Carleton, N.B. (Mr. Carvell) are not appointed by order in council.