

present case we find the postmaster was dismissed, and that I may say further he did not receive notice of his dismissal until after he had entered on his duties for the month, though his dismissal took place from the first of the month. It was not many days I admit, and I may say in justice to the Postmaster General that when I called his attention to that fact, he said he was not aware of it, and that he would see that the postmaster was paid for the month in which he had entered on his duties. The deputy postmaster was receiving \$1,350 a year; he is now doing the duties, as I was told, at \$1,600, an increase of \$250. I have been informed since that the salary is only \$1,550, consequently I make both statements as I heard them. The Postmaster General says \$1,550. Those in Belleville who ought to know say he is getting \$1,600. However, that is a matter of little consequence. He has been placed on the superannuation list, being only thirty-seven years of age, he has served fifteen years and three-quarters of a year, and his superannuation allowance is \$400 per annum, but he does not draw that \$400 during the time that he remains managing the office at the \$1,600 a year. Alfred Gillan was a second class clerk, thirty-nine years of age, who had served fifteen years and three-quarters. His salary was \$1,200 a year, and at that age he is retired at \$360 a year, during the whole of his life. This young gentleman was re-employed at \$400 a year. All the new clerks were employed at \$400 a year, but he draws in addition to that his superannuation allowance; and if you like to make the calculation, taking his age and robust health, it is an investment to him, if he were buying an annuity, of about \$10,000 out of the public revenue. Mr. Walker, who was also dismissed was thirty four years of age. He was employed thirteen years and three-quarters. He was receiving \$800 per annum. His superannuation allowance, as long as he lives, is \$208. This is one of the young gentlemen who was not re-employed. W. J. Embury was forty-one years of age. He was twelve years in the service. He drew \$800 per annum, and now a superannuation allowance during the balance of his life of \$204.52. Miss Newberry was forty-three years of age, thirteen years in the service, at a salary of \$800 per annum, and she draws \$207 during the remainder of her life from the superannuation fund. Mr.

Lynch was thirty years of age, had been twelve years in the service and had \$800 salary. He draws \$186.66 and was re-employed at \$400. Mr. Reeves was twenty-eight years of age, seven years and nine months in the service at \$600, received a gratuity, not a superannuation, of \$304.66, and was re-employed at \$400 per annum. Mary Kennedy, 34 years of age, 4½ years in the service, received a gratuity of \$187.77, and was re-appointed to the service at \$400. Mr. Hargraves, who was 26 years of age, and had been 4½ years in the service, got \$91.61. John Taylor, the postmaster, employed at \$1,400 a year, was dismissed. Not having been in long enough, he received neither gratuity nor any other consideration—not even pay for the month on which he had entered when he received notice of his dismissal. This places an annual charge upon the superannuation fund of \$1,566.79, in addition to the \$585.04 of gratuities. I have already mentioned that Mr. Duncan, the acting postmaster, does not receive his superannuation allowance during the time that he is employed in the office, but he is a young man of only 37, and should he leave the office to-morrow, there will be that charge of \$400 per annum against the superannuation fund during his lifetime. If you take the amount paid for superannuation and capitalize it at three per cent, you will find it represents a capital of \$52,200, and if you deduct the \$400, which is not paid during the continuance in office of Mr. Duncan, it would represent a capital of about \$40,000. I ask any reasonable man whether, under these circumstances, the action of the Postmaster General is not an abuse of the Superannuation Act? The Postmaster General wrote a letter to the editor of the *Belleville Sun*, which had been, for some time, what is termed an independent paper—that is, independent in politics—until the last election took place, and then it avowed itself a supporter of the Hardy Government and of the Dominion Government, and is now a full blown Grit sheet. I will read one extract from the Postmaster General's letter, in which he attempts to give a reason for the course he pursued:

Perhaps I may take a wrong view of my duty as Postmaster General, but I think I am bound to place the public money which parliament has placed at my disposal as head of this department in such a way as will produce the best results to the public at least possible cost. My position is a public trust, and I