

The Address—Mr. Pouliot

I have before me another set of circumstances to which I should like to draw attention. This also concerns a returned soldier. On February 27, 1931, the Deputy Postmaster General wrote Mr. Isidore Jean, of Sully, as follows:

If it is necessary to make a change, the new postmaster will be appointed by the Civil Service Commission.

On February 5, 1932, Andréa Tardif was appointed temporary postmaster. On March 22, 1932, the Hon. Mr. Roche, chairman of the Civil Service Commission wrote me:

As the commission has nothing on its files to indicate that any new appointment had been made to the postmastership at Sully, P.Q., and as no temporary certificate has been issued for any person, I am having an inquiry made of the Post Office Department to learn the present state of affairs.

Then I spoke on that in the house and the Postmaster General wrote me on May 24 that a permanent appointment would be made by the Civil Service Commission. I had great respect for him, I wanted to be on good terms with him; I trusted him absolutely. I am therefore most disappointed to see the way he has acted in this matter. That man had been recommended to the postmastership by the Minister of Pensions (Mr. MacLaren) and by the private secretary to the Prime Minister and on behalf of the Prime Minister to the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General's private secretary on June 29 wrote to Isidore Jean that Mr. Green would communicate with him. On July 2, Mr. Green wrote thus:

(Translation): I am instructed to put you in charge of the post office of Sully, county of Temiscouata.

I would request that you inform me when you will be ready to take charge of the office in order that an inspector of the post service may be sent to carry out the transfer.

After that man, a returned soldier, had been notified that he would be appointed postmaster, had been instructed to prepare his premises for the work of the office, July passed, August passed, September passed. What happened? That man had spent money, \$300, then on October 4 last I received this letter:

The chief inspector of the department has been recently instructed to examine the qualifications of Mr. Isidore Jean, returned soldier, as candidate for postmaster at Sully. According to the report of this officer Mr. Jean is not capable of being a good postmaster—

To put it shortly he is described as ignorant—ignorant of learning, of education, of science, according to the instructions of this deep well that is the Postmaster General.

You have heard something of the Lake St. John tragedy; the real one has occurred since

[Mr. Pouliot.]

August, 1930, when the throats of the postmasters of that district were cut by the Postmaster General. I am not surprised that the Postmaster General fears to hear these matters exposed here this afternoon, he is afraid to listen to the truth. But he was bold enough to forget the miseries he had caused in that part of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I have found that in the files many letters are missing. I will read one letter, for instance, to show that the rights and privileges of parliament are disregarded, if not by the Postmaster General, at least by officials of his department. I have before me a file of several hundred letters. Here is one filled with dotted lines. Is it private, is it public? If it is private and confidential the minister shall keep it private, but if it is public and official we must have it in its entirety.

House of Commons, Ottawa
May 26 1931.

Hon. Arthur Sauvé,
Postmaster General, Ottawa.

Honourable Minister:

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For inquiry of St. Joseph d'Alma:

- Mrs. Jos. Abel.
- Mr. Jos. Gauthier.
- Miss Cecile Harvey.
- Mr. Alphonse Renaud.

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Yours truly,

Dr. L. Duguay, M.P.

That will be found at page 100 of last year's sessional paper No. 352.

Now, Mr. Speaker, why do we see those dotted lines? I made charges against the Postmaster General during last session, telling him that that man who had been appointed by the Postmaster General at St. Eusèbe de Cabano had carried smuggled liquor used for canvassing during the last provincial election in Quebec. I wanted to have an investigation, at last I got it. I went there, I did not bring any witness with me; witnesses were called by the commissioner, and what was the evidence? It was that Conservative witnesses said there was liquor in the postmaster's car when the car came back. They went at night. This man was appointed postmaster on June 30, 1931, the election took place on August 24, 1931, and a few days before the election those men hired the postmaster—or they did not hire him because he presented his bill only one year after the charges were made—but went in his car, driven by himself, to a certain