

office into a city office imposed a very heavy expense upon the revenues of the country, heavier than the amount paid to officers who were remunerated by fees and were termed town officers. That proposition I believe to be correct, and the Post-Master General in his wisdom thought proper to adopt that principle as his policy he says, in connection with his office. Had he done so throughout the whole Dominion I do not know that, as a citizen of that city, I should have had personally any complaint to make, but the primary cause which led him to that conclusion, and I believe to that policy, was for one purpose solely, and that was to get rid of what was alleged to be an offensive partisan in the person of the postmaster. My information is that affidavits were made against the postmaster and filed in the office, but upon inquiry it was found that there was not a scintilla of truth in the complaints which had been made; that in fact his only offensive act was to drive three miles from the city to vote in what is known as the east riding, and that he had not only voted himself but that he had carried a voter to the polls. He did vote himself and he carried a voter to the polls, but it happened that while he was driving to a little village called Cannifton to record his own vote, he picked up a neighbour, a personal friend, who was a Liberal. He asked him if he was going to Cannifton to vote, and he replied yes. He took him in his buggy and they both went to the polls, one voted for the Conservative candidate and the other for the Liberal candidate. That is the nature of his offence. These facts coming, as I am informed, to the knowledge of the Postmaster General, he declined to dismiss Mr. Taylor. A party through the Reform Association insisted upon the removal of that gentleman from the office of postmaster, and there was no other mode of meeting that request than by the abolition of the office as a city office. If I am correctly informed, the Postmaster General put his foot down pretty firmly, and said he would not dismiss him upon the grounds which had been laid before him, but that he could meet their views by reducing the office from a city to a town office, and thereby remove all the officers from the postmaster down, and then in the reappointment he would not appoint a new postmaster, but would place the business of the office in the hands of the deputy postmaster and give instructions to the acting

postmaster, who was the deputy and who is now in charge of the offices, to employ under the percentage system such other officers as he thought proper, but he must take the recommendation and meet the views of the Reform Association of the city in whatever appointments he made. The reduction took place, every official in the office was removed (if you like to so call it) or dismissed, the office was placed under the management of the deputy postmaster at an increased salary; he re-employed, I suppose with the consent of the Reform Association, such of the old clerks as he thought proper at a reduced salary. There were five dismissed, of whom the postmaster and four of the clerks were not re-employed, as he considered it was not necessary to employ them all. Two of the clerks were not re-appointed. One of these was a young lady, who was at the time and had been for years, the principal support of a widowed mother, she was not reappointed but was put upon the superannuation list, to which I shall refer later, and I think I will justify the remarks I made in the discussion on the address which I have already quoted, that it was a gross abuse of the Superannuation Act. She was left out and a very amiable but inexperienced young lady was placed in the position. She happened to be the daughter of a former president of the Reform Association, a man well to do and carrying on a large business in the city. The young lady who was dismissed was the grand-daughter of a former member of the old parliament of Canada, the late George Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin had been a conservative, and I suppose the fact that she was his grand-daughter was the cause of her dismissal, although she had been the mainstay of her parent. Since then she has had to go and live with her brother and the family has gone to Nebraska. Of the other two, one a young man, happened to be a conservative, he was not re-employed. He also had helped to maintain his father and mother. Now let us look at the manner in which the superannuation funds has been used to carry out this policy. Those who are acquainted with the principles of the Superannuation Act know that an officer has to serve ten years before he is eligible to be retired under the Superannuation Act. If a clerk or official is dismissed or removed, if not for good cause, if it be in view of economy or for the efficiency of the office, there is generally a gratuity granted to the individual. In the