

is monstrous. In violation of law and every principle of parliamentary government, he instructed his officials to do that which, if they did it without instructions, would be petty larceny, and nothing else. What is his reply to that? He said, the other day, that the British Government had done the same thing. But how the British Government could have done the same thing, when they never committed themselves to any such folly, is beyond comprehension. But, he added, they told me to do that. That is worse still. In this year of our Lord, is it possible that a Canadian Minister shall be instructed by the British Government when to take money out of the consolidated revenue and spend it without authority? It is one of the most monstrous propositions I have ever heard. Then, he had another excuse, and it is one which had been made before on a very interesting occasion—the excuse that it was a very little one; it was only \$91.50. And this is the kind of man that is held up to the world as the founder of the Imperial penny postage system, to the utter obliteration of Sir Henniker-Heaton and the other men who have devoted years of efforts to this object long before our Postmaster General ever thought of it. But the proposition itself did not come from "I, William Mullock," at all. I was in London at the time, and you will find in the "Daily Chronicle," the organ of the Liberal party in London, the statement, that at the first meeting Sir David Tennant made the proposition for penny postage. The proposal of the hon. Postmaster General of Canada was not that at all. His proposal was, to send for three cents an ounce letters to every part of the British Empire. But no such thing exists to-day. No such proposal was heard of on that occasion. But Sir David Tennant's proposal at the first meeting was, that Imperial penny postage should be adopted, and he represented the Cape of Good Hope. Then our Postmaster General, not willing to lose the opportunity, gave notice that he would move that at the next meeting, and did so. The suggestion, however, was not his, but that of Sir David Tennant. And it was adopted. As to the challenge I have made of the accuracy of the statement with regard to the British Government, I am willing to make an apology if the Postmaster General will lay on the Table of this House any evidence that the British Government did anything of the kind he suggests, or that in the course he took he acted under the instructions of the British Government. He did act under their instructions in cancelling his absurd proclamation, but that is all. I do not now discuss the question whether, for the sake of a United Empire, this reduction might not be made, but I say it was not done by Canada. We did not move in it originally nor did my right hon. friend second it when it was brought before him by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It was an afterthought, and when the figures

are analysed it will be found that, instead of hundreds of thousands being in the pockets of the people, a million dollars per annum will be taken out of the pockets of the people to cover the deficit. When so rich a colony as New South Wales with a revenue of about \$46,000,000, says it is too expensive for them to bear it, we may be rich enough to bear these things and so cover ourselves with glory; but I doubt if the people of Canada will be grateful when they find the heavy tax imposed for this service. I would call the attention of the Postmaster General to one of the gravest scandals of the present day, and that is the postal communication with the Yukon. While he has thus reduced the revenue of the post office, the people of that country have been suffering the greatest hardships and the most cruel injustice because of the scandalous and disgraceful state of the postal arrangements. A correspondent in the Victoria "Colonist" says, March, 1899, he has not had a letter in four months, while his father, to whom the letter is written, says, that he has posted him letters at intervals of two weeks ever since his son has been absent. Then the "Globe's" special correspondent says:

The incoming mail service continues to be marked by its infrequency. With the exception of a small batch of letters, chiefly delayed summer mail, which arrived here on December 6th, and a bag of purely official matter which came in on January 1st, no mail has reached Dawson from the outside since September last. * * * This winter there are hundreds of people anxiously looking for business letters, letters that might save fortunes.

And yet this is the distinguished Postmaster General who has made Canada ridiculous in the eyes of the world by declaring that "We hold a vaster Empire than has been." Why, if Great Britain herself had said that, she would have made herself the butt of endless ridicule. For Canada to say it—"we hold"—by the way, that word "we" seems to be completely turning the heads of gentlemen on the other side. When did Canada "hold a vaster Empire than has been." We are all proud to know that Canada is the brightest gem in the Imperial diadem, we are glad to know that there is no section of this great Empire that commands more consideration than Canada does to-day. But why should we make ourselves ridiculous? I will not say as Goldwin Smith in his "Bystander" letters says that it is a "painted lie," but I protest against it. I ask as a personal favour, I ask as a matter due to the feelings of the people of Canada, that this ridiculous post office stamp be done away with. "Punch" had a most ludicrous comment upon it. It gave half a dozen emblems, together with mottoes suitable for England and other countries. They thought it appropriate that England should say "We have the tallest policeman in the world." I shall not attempt to say what France was supposed to say—my right hon. friend could do it better justice than I. The