

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Why did you not do it ?

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend has not any positive quality in himself, if he will always shirk behind what he thinks to be somebody else's failing, he will never go to heaven.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Then why did you not do it ?

Mr. FOSTER. It is not with that negative sort of virtue that people ever do any thing or ever come to anything in this country.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. If it was such a good thing for us to do, why did you not do it ?

Mr. FOSTER. Why do you not follow us in everything else ? Why make any changes ? Just as the hon. gentleman will take one part of the census which shows that the population has decreased, and will hold that to be as true as the New Testament and will take another part which shows that the industries of the country have increased and will hold that that is as false as any thing his Satanic majesty can invent ; so when he does one little thing that is positive, he boasts that he is doing better than we did, while when he is brought up with something he did not do, his only answer is : "You did not do that either." Now, what my hon. friend has done has been to destroy a native industry and introduce an alien company into this country. On the simple ground of saving, I ask him why he did not print the postal cards also ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Will the hon. gentleman allow me to put a question to him ? He has stated that at a trifling expense of about \$100, the necessary plates could be obtained for printing these postal cards, and that as we have all the machinery and appliances and staff of the Queen's Printer, the whole of that work could be very well done in our own printing department. The hon. gentleman was Finance Minister and had the giving out of this very work for a great many years ; and to test his sincerity, if that is the proper place in which to do that work, I would like him to say why he did not have the postal cards printed in the way he says it should be done.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will give me time, I will answer all that. It is the privilege of some people to answer a question by asking another, and I will put a question to my hon. friend. Mine was a negative fault ; I did not do a certain thing. My hon. friend, when in Opposition, was very positive on one thing ; he was positive that the Governor General's salary ought to be reduced. Why, may I ask my hon. friend, now that he has possession of the power and is autocratic, does

he not carry out his positive assertion of a few years ago ? Now, I will proceed to number two. In the first place, my hon. friend does not seem to be able to state fairly a position which I took two moments before. I did not state that the Queen's Printer's department had all the machinery that was necessary ; I did not state that at an expense of \$100 the printing could be gone on with. I said that the die which was necessary for the postal cards could be made for probably \$100. I am not positive whether it would cost that or not. I said that you had the whole establishment, its capital and maintenance, and all that would be necessary would be to put in a few inexpensive machines, and you could carry on the work for yourself. Why I did not do that, and why the Finance Minister did not do it, are very different questions, and I will tell you why I did not propose at any time to destroy the heart of the engraving business, and give it to an alien New York firm. So far as I was concerned, I was solicitous to see the establishment in its entirety, soul and body, engraving and mechanical work, put together and patronized as an institution worthy of this country, and both were continued. My hon. friend is not in that position. He is destroying the soul of the thing on the ground of economy, and yet he is not distributing the parts of the body in a way for the best interest of the country. Now, the Finance Minister showed all the way through a very accommodating spirit to the New York firm. In interviews, in correspondence, in every possible way, his whole communication with them seemed a sort of invitation for them to do what I suppose they wanted to do, and what they succeeded in the end in doing. Now, my hon. friend has destroyed a Canadian industry, which was built up here through twenty-five or thirty years of constant effort. He has introduced in its place an alien corporation, which not only takes from the Canadian corporation the work previously given to it, but on the basis of Government patronage, had established an enginery of rivalry to destroy what remains of the private work of that establishment which the Government had caused to be established at Ottawa at great expense. At a time when even the most common Canadian labourer cannot cross the Niagara River and do a day's work and get a dollar for it on the American side, without running the risk of deportation, at a time when a Canadian cannot hold a mining license in the United States or a contract from an American authority unless he abjures his allegiance, the hon. gentleman is so far imbued with that very Christian spirit that he turns both cheeks to be smited and brings an alien corporation to this country to take the employment from our own people and take the bread out of our children's mouths. I think that this year, more than all others, it