

POST OFFICES AT POCKMOUCHE.

Mr. ANGLIN moved for correspondence respecting the closing of two post offices in the Parish of Pockmouche, County of Gloucester, New Brunswick, and the opening of another office and the appointment of another postmaster. He said that a large portion of the parish of Pockmouche was formerly served by two post offices, the population of the district served being considerably over 2,000. One of the offices was centrally situated; but he had felt a strong reluctance to ask for the removal of a postmaster who had been there for several years. The people on the other side of the river having been put to a great inconvenience in coming to this post office for their mails, a post office was, at his suggestion, established for their convenience. A short time ago, however, both post offices were abolished, and the whole district was now served by only one post office. The existence of the second post office did not entail any expense beyond the salary of the postmaster. Some of the people had to go a distance of four or five miles for their letters or papers. He thought this was one of those cases of petty political malice which ought to be thoroughly exposed, and he was sorry to find any one of the departments of this country degraded into becoming the agency for carrying out petty, local, political spites of this kind. There had been no complaint against either of the postmasters, and although not more than \$10 or \$12 a year was saved, the inconvenience caused to hundreds, and he might almost say thousands, of people through the change was very great indeed.

Mr. LANGEVIN said the hon. gentleman was quite wrong when he said there was any intention of using the post office Department for political purposes. The suppression of these two post offices took place because the public service required it. They could not place a post office at the door of every individual in the country. Post offices had multiplied to such an extent that it was proper for the Post Office Department to suppress such as were not really necessary. They had done that in different parts of the country, and though the saving in individual cases might not be more than \$20, or \$30, or \$40, the saving multiplied twenty or thirty times made a large sum, and enabled the department to open post offices where none existed now. In the present instance, although the department had suppressed two post offices, they had established one in order to meet the requirements of that district; and he had no doubt, when the hon. gentleman saw the correspondence and ceased to look through his political glasses, he would find that the Post Office Department took the proper course.

Mr. ANGLIN said he had respectfully to contradict the hon. gentleman. He knew that district and its necessities, and he could assure the hon. gentleman that the department had been entirely misinformed when they had been told that the public service required the suppression of any one of these offices. At present a large number of people had to travel long distances, and to go far out of their way to reach the post office which had been established. The proper course would have been to remove one of these offices further away towards Tracadie, and place it more in the centre of the section it was designed to serve. The public service did not require the change that was made, and the cause and motive of it were entirely political and local. In this case there was something more than a mere petty local quarrel; there was the design to injure him in that particular district, but that entirely failed, because the people were all satisfied that the work was not of his doing, that he wished to obtain for them all the accommodation to which they were entitled with due regard to the protection of the public revenues. He had never asked anything from the late Government which he did not feel justified in asking within that limit. The hon. Minister had been misinformed and had misinformed the House when he said

the public service required this to be done. It was low, petty, political malice that required it to be done.

Mr. O'CONNOR moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

RETURNS.

The following motions for returns were severally agreed to:—

Return of all appointments made since September, 1877, of persons whose services were to be rendered partly or wholly in the Province of Manitoba, their salaries and by whom recommended.—(Mr. Ryan, Marquette.)

Copies of all Orders in Council, reports, letters and other documents in relation to a certain drawing of lots for lands on Red River, Province of Manitoba, in virtue of which the Hudson's Bay Company now claim to be the proprietors of a very considerable number of lots improved, cultivated and built upon by private individuals prior to the public notice of the 14th November, 1877, signed by J. S. Dennis, S. G.; also, copies of all reports and documents in consequence or in virtue of which the Dominion Government has, as it is stated, granted to the Hudson's Bay Company one-twentieth of all lands outside of the townships, or in the settlement belt; also, copies of all reports, records, or other documents, upon which the aforesaid notice of 14th November, 1877, was based; also, copies of all letters of instruction, schedules and other letters or documents, in relation to the said subject, addressed to the Lands Office at Winnipeg, with the answer thereto; also, copies of all memorials, claims, petitions and requests, forwarded to the Government on this subject, from the 14th November, 1877, up to this date.—(Mr. Royal.)

Copies of all papers touching the mission of Mr. Lang, of the Department of the Interior, last summer, to Manitoba, in connection with the unpatented lands of said Province.—(Mr. Royal.)

Copies of all correspondence relating to the appointment of Major General Luard; together with copies of all complaints made to the Department of Militia, or the Government, in regard to the administration of Militia affairs by the said Luard.—(Mr. Ryan, Marquette.)

Copies of communications or correspondence affecting applications for patents to land in the parish of St. Peter.—(Mr. Ryan, Marquette.)

Copies (1) of the correspondence respecting the contract for all the wood furnished to the Department of Marine for the use of the lower lightship in the Traverse during the past summer; (2) The price paid for this wood, the quantity, quality and kind furnished; (3) The person who furnished this wood; (4) The person who received and measured this wood; (5) Copies of the aforesaid contract or of any document giving evidence of its terms.—(Mr. Casgrain.)

House adjourned at 6 o'clock, p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 3rd February, 1881.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CONTROVERTED ELECTION OF RICHELIEU.

Mr. LAURIER moved that the first Order of the Day be the resumption of the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Laurier, for the reception of the petition of Edmund Ritter and others, complaining of a certain failure of justice in connection with the Controverted Election of Richelieu.

Motion agreed to.