

between the statement as to forty-five, and twice or three times that number, that it does lead to the conclusion that some committee somewhere is arranging the dismissals or reappointments without the knowledge of the Minister.

Amount required to pay the British American Bank Note Company for printing and engraving Dominion notes..... \$33,656 15

Mr. FOSTER. The House will remember that on Friday there was a little conversation on this item with reference to the Jubilee stamps, and the Postmaster General made certain statements with reference to the British American Bank Note Company. These statements, of course, went upon the "Hansard," and I have had a communication from Mr. Burland with reference to what the Minister said. I do not want to put the House to the trouble of listening to the whole of the letter, but I may mention that Mr. Burland says that the statements made by the Postmaster General were, in Mr. Burland's opinion, not in accordance with the facts. He says:

When it became known that a Jubilee stamp was about to be issued, I waited upon the Minister, and, after discussion, he promised to give us the work. Our artists then prepared a design, which was submitted to the Minister. Upon examination, he admitted his ignorance of such matters, and referred the matter to Mr. Dobell by letter, which I conveyed in person along with the design. Mr. Dobell examined it carefully, approved of it, initialled it and wrote to Mr. Mulock to that effect. This letter I myself delivered to the Postmaster. He then delayed a decision, and from week to week for several weeks put the matter off, pleading that he was very busy and that he wished to take the opinion of a clerk in another department, whom he claimed, was an artist. This clerk had himself made a design which was entirely unsuitable, and the Postmaster never at any time said the one submitted by us and approved by Mr. Dobell was not suitable. The design now actually in use is only slightly altered from ours, and not improved thereby.

All these delays were made, as it now appears, to allow our contract to expire.

Then Mr. Burland denies the statement made by the Postmaster General as to the inequality or unevenness of the work, and the inferior quality of gumming. Mr. Burland says that his work for thirty-five years answers for itself, and he is quite willing to let it go against the statement of the Minister. This is the substance of the assertions made by the president of the old company, and I think it only fair to have his statement go to the House, along with the statement made by the Minister on Friday, as his statement rather reflects upon Mr. Burland's work.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I quite adhere to what I said before, and with regard to the reference to Mr. Dobell, it is hardly worth while referring to it. It happened in this way: I was submitting my

Mr. FOSTER.

sketches to various persons, amongst others to Mr. Dobell, and I think I had given them all to Mr. Dobell to look them over. Mr. Burland was running after me perpetually—

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Burland denies that he ran after you.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. He pursued me until he got possession of these sketches. I think Mr. Dobell made a selection out of the number, but they were in a crude state, wholly unfinished. I have nothing to withdraw of my statements whatever, and if Mr. Burland thinks I made any promise to him, and if he chooses to bring an action against the Crown, he shall have every opportunity to do so. If he has any promise from me he can have a remedy through an action for breach of contract. He called upon me after the work was given to the other company, and in the presence of my secretary we went over the whole matter, and in the course of that interview he stated that he recognized the fact that he had not received any promise, that he had no claim whatever, and that he only wished to publish this work himself. I myself would have preferred if I could have given it to him. I was anxious to have given it to him; my feelings were that way.

Public Buildings—Quebec..... \$58,908 15

Mr. FOSTER. What is the estimated cost of the Berthierville public building?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I will not spend a dollar more than I am asking for, \$5,000.

Mr. WALLACE. I think there are some items here that should not pass, especially the vote of \$7,500 for Montmagny post office. I therefore move that it be struck out, seconded by the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean).

Amendment negatived, on division.

To meet expenses in connection with the visit of Hon. Mr. Laurier to England at the celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee..... \$8,000

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to have the leader of the Government tell us generally what is the proposed method of expenditure of this amount. I do not ask the hon. gentleman to give the details at all.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The hon. gentleman is of course aware that under the circumstances it would not be for the credit and honour of Canada that the Premier should be stinted in his expenditure. He will almost of necessity have to visit a great many places and people, travelling a great deal, and, as he himself and Lady Laurier, with his secretary and ordinary attendants, will form the party, he cannot by any possibility—