

management of the post office of Belleville. I say he was, and he did what the law required, when a public servant is no longer required when in the public interest that servant may be dispensed with; to those who had served less than ten years he granted the gratuity that the law provides for. Now, if these parties, on account of their age, comparatively young in years, ought not to have been superannuated, who is to be blamed for that, who is to blame for their being in the public service? Why my hon. friend and those associated with him in the government. They filled the office, they raised it to the position of an office in a large city when the revenues and the circumstances of the place did not warrant it, and in order to effect a reform it was necessary to conform to the Superannuation Act and to give those persons a gratuity, or it is necessary to dismiss them from the public service altogether. Now my hon. friend would not have been satisfied if those persons had been so dealt with, and it was to enable the government to meet a case where a change in the management or administration of the department or of laws is necessary in order to secure economy and to bring about reform that those provisions of the law are inserted. And I say again that if there is anything wrong in this superannuation and in these grants and gratuities, that wrong lies at the door of my hon. friend and those associated with him in office who filled the office with those parties and brought them under a regulation that was unsuited to the circumstances in which that office is placed. Now let me call the attention of my hon. friend to the report of the Postmaster General upon the subject. I am not going to read the names of all the parties who have been retired by superannuation or by the granting of gratuities. I think my hon. friend went over the entire list, but let me read what the Postmaster General said in his report to Council when he asked His Excellency in Council to deal with this subject:

The Postmaster General reports that on the first day of July, 1882, the Belleville post office was placed on a city or staff basis, the postmaster and his clerks being brought under the provisions of the Civil Service and Civil Service Superannuation Acts.

That the results of this change as regards the expense of maintaining the Belleville post office has been as follows:—

Prior to the date above mentioned the postmaster received an allowance by way of salary for himself and his employees and to provide for the miscellaneous

expenses of the office of \$3,770, of which \$3,470 was ordinary salary based upon an estimate revenue of \$15,581, and \$300 was an allowance for "Forward Duty" performed at the Belleville post office for outlying offices. The returns for the year ended 30th June, 1897, show that the revenue of the Belleville post office from the sale of stamps is now \$16,586, to which must be added \$932 paid in by the postmaster on account of box rents, giving a total revenue of \$17,519. Assuming, as may safely be done, that the "Forward Duty" was not increased, the expenses of maintaining the office under the old system would therefore at the present time be as follows:—

Salary based on revenue of \$16,586...	\$3,607
Forward allowance.....	300
	<hr/>
	\$3,907

Instead of this there is under the staff for civil service system and expense for salaries to the postmaster and nine other employees of \$8,710, to which must be added the sum of \$369, paid during the year ended 30th June, 1897, for contingent expenses, making in all an outlay of \$9,079. From this amount must be deducted the income arising from the rent of post office boxes, which under the old system was appropriated by the postmaster. This for the year ended 30th June, 1897, amounted, as already mentioned to \$932, leaving the net expenses of the post office, \$8,147. Deducting from this the amount which would now be payable under the old system, viz., \$3,907, it appears that the excess in expense of the new system is at present at the rate of \$4,240 per annum.

The Postmaster General is of opinion that the public interest demands that the system of remuneration of the staff of the Belleville post office should be that which formerly obtained instead of the present and extravagant and expensive one and as the change involves the placing upon the retired list of such of the staff as are entitled to superannuation and the payment of a gratuity to such as are entitled thereto, the Postmaster General makes the several recommendations respecting the Belleville post office herein set forth.

Now, I think hon. gentlemen will see that there is no point in the attack made by my hon. friend opposite. The only thing that requires the consideration of the government in respect to the matters which he discussed is whether that system which has been introduced in respect to the Belleville post office ought not to be extended to some of the other post offices where the staff system prevails, and when my hon. friend points out other towns or cities where this system prevails that require to be dealt with in the same way, I have no doubt whatever that it will receive the fullest and most careful consideration of the Postmaster General and his colleagues in office.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman has not referred to a portion of my motion which asks for reasons why two were not reappointed?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I know nothing about the changes which have taken place. My