

by reason of an amendment or alteration in the bill, we would be at once stigmatized as corrupt and accused of being bought. It is monstrous, and some means should be devised whereby punishment should be meted out to any newspaper which publishes such a gross and scandalous libel upon any respectable body of men.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—It is to be regretted that the Senate should take notice of this matter at all. The statement is so monstrous, that the public are not likely to give much credence to it, and very few journals would publish it. But my hon. friend, in introducing the subject here, may give to it a very much wider publicity than it would be otherwise likely to acquire. The self-respect of the Senate and its standing in the public estimation, so far as a matter of personal integrity is concerned, is such as to protect it against such a statement until there is something very much more favourable to it than its appearance in the *World*. The *World* is a very sensational journal, and, of course, anything that will give notoriety to it and induce parties to subscribe that might not otherwise do so, may there find admission. I am sure of this, that the public at large will believe that the Senate are not likely to be influenced in its judgment by considerations of that sort, and that neither contractor, nor publisher, nor anybody else is likely to approach the members of this Senate with a view of influencing its members by any corrupt consideration.

## DISMISSALS IN BELLEVILLE POST OFFICE.

### MOTION.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved :

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid on the Table of the Senate :

1. Copies of all complaints, whether by affidavit or otherwise, made against Mr. John Taylor, late postmaster of the city of Belleville.

2. Copies of all Orders in Council authorizing the reducing of the post office in Belleville from that of a city to a town office.

3. The names of the employees of said office who were dismissed, their ages, length of time each was in the service of the Government, the amount of gratuity paid to each who had not served ten years, and the

amount of superannuation allowance allowed to each clerk who had served ten years and over.

4. The names of those who were re-appointed, and the salaries now paid them, in addition to their superannuation allowance.

5. The reasons why Miss I. M. Newberry and W. B. Walker were not re-employed, and two new and experienced clerks appointed in their stead.

6. And copies of all correspondence, between members of the Reform Association of Belleville or any other person or persons, in relation to the reduction of said office from a city to a town office, the removal or dismissal of the postmaster or any of the clerks of said office, and copies of all records, if any, of the deputations which visited Ottawa in connection with the business of the said office.

This question is purely a local one, I admit, but there is a very important principle involved in the action taken by the government in the reduction of the Belleville post office from a city to a town office, and the mode adopted for getting rid of the postmaster, the dismissal of the clerks, the re-appointment of some of the old clerks, the appointment of some new clerks, and allowing others to remain dismissed without any cause, though they agreed and were willing to accept their old positions under the salaries which were paid to the new officers; and also a principle involved in the use to which the Superannuation Act was put in the carrying out of the new policy of the Post Office Department. I do not know that I should have brought this matter before the Senate were it not that I find that in the remarks which I made in discussing the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I used the following language in speaking of the different measures to be introduced, or which were promised by the Governor General :

The manner in which the Superannuation Act has been abused within the last twelve months should induce its strongest advocate to suggest some changes, I shall take occasion to bring before the House one illustration, at least, in my own city of the manner in which the Superannuation Act has, to my mind, been most grossly abused.

The facts which I propose to lay before the House may induce some members, who might be favourable to the continuation of the Superannuation Act now upon the statute book, to vote for the repeal of that Act or the amendments to it which it is proposed, as I understand, to be made by the Postmaster General. Now the facts are simply thus : Belleville was erected into a city post office some years ago, a postmaster was appointed, a deputy postmaster and a number of clerks. It is contended that the erection, in a place of that size, of a town