

have publicly noticed his conduct in any way, but for the remarks which had been made to-night. A gentleman in the township of Osprey, named Archibald McIntyre, had written a letter to Hon. Archibald McKellar in regard to the elections. That gentleman had sent a reply which, as it afterwards transpired, was one of which no gentleman need be ashamed. This reply, marked "private," had arrived at the post-office when the gentleman to whom it was addressed was from home, but a friend of his, Mr. McKay, had called and obtained the letter and had left it in his own box until he was ready to return home. In the meantime, the postmaster, the gentleman to whom he had before referred, had given out the letter to an Alex. McIntyre.

AN HON. MEMBER: Did he belong to the party of letter-stealers?

MR. LANDERKIN: Yes; he was opposed to him (Mr. Landerkin). Mr. Alex. McIntyre, he was informed, handed the letter to another party who gave it to Mr. Jackson, the candidate of the Conservative party, and, notwithstanding the fact that the letter was "private," that McIntyre, the "Conservative candidate" did not hesitate to violate the sanctity of private correspondence to gain a political party advantage. The illegal and disreputable means used to obtain this letter were connived at by the whole of the Opposition press who endeavoured to convey the idea that the Hon. Mr. McKellar (who was a member of the Ontario Government) was endeavouring to use improperly the influence of the Crown to carry the election, when such was not the case at all, as the letter was not intended, nor did it indicate the least impropriety on the part of that gentleman. Cases of this kind were not rare under the old Government; and when the hon. member for Charlevoix must be so well aware of the interference of officials under the old regime, it was a matter of surprise that he should endeavour to prejudice public opinion by such specious declamation.

MR. HUNTINGTON said he would like to ask the hon. member for Charlevoix whether he would join with

him (Mr. Huntington) in making it an offence punishable by dismissal for civil servants to interfere in elections. This was the proper way to look at the business. Speaking as an individual and not as a Minister, he would say he had no doubt that civil servants should serve the country and not a party. Would the hon. gentleman apply the principle he had mentioned to political enemies and friends alike. If this rule were adopted, the hon. gentleman would be obliged to go to more political funerals in a short time than he dared say the hon. gentleman had time to attend. The hon. gentleman knew how it was himself, and for the hon. members for Charlevoix and Kingston to rise, he would not say with simulated indignation, and complain that civil servants were interfering in politics, after their history, was a piece of sweet declamation, the like of which he had rarely seen. If postmasters were salaried they came within the limit, while, if paid a percentage, this was not always the case, some received \$10, and some more. The line had never been drawn. The hon. member for Kingston seemed to see in this a very grave case, when a young man went home to see a sick mother, and another to see a sick wife, and said solemnly that he did not believe the story. It was possible that both these young men had gone down to canvass in the election, and it might have been very improper that they should have gone. The hon. gentleman had heard the Speaker's statement in this relation, and had accepted it. He wished an answer to his question.

MR. LANGEVIN said that civil servants, no matter to which party they belonged, should not interfere in elections. They were paid to attend to public duties, and they should not leave their offices to canvass for either party, whether they were under the direct control of the Government or under the control of the House. To do so was highly improper.

MR. Fiset said that if the theory laid down by the hon. member for Charlevoix was accepted, the Government would be justified in making a *rasade*, and in dismissing any number