

Mr. WALLACE. The statement was made to me in Owen Sound. I was there at the time, and I know that the Postmaster General was making himself very busy visiting postmasters. I know that a postmaster visited him there.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I must again correct the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace). He must not mistake anything. I made no visit to any postmaster, though I may say that when I was in Owen Sound the postmaster of that place called upon me as any gentleman might, and I treated him as I would any gentleman. I did not order him out of my presence. I never interviewed or communicated directly or indirectly with any postmaster there during the political campaign.

Mr. WALLACE. We will have to accept the hon. gentleman's statement, but he cannot deny that he has dismissed a large number of postmasters without holding an investigation. The case that has been cited here is one of very many that have occurred.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. The discussion is out of order.

Mr. WALLACE. This is a nice time of the day, Mr. Chairman, to tell me that I am out of order. I am very glad you called my attention to it, because I have just finished my remarks.

Lachine Canal enlargement..... \$216,000

Mr. FOSTER. What we wanted on this item were the names of the officers on these different canals who have been dismissed, and the names of those who have been appointed in their places.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I will hand to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) a statement.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend will see that this is very bulky, and it is difficult even to cursorily analyse the statement off-hand. Perhaps my hon. friend had better go to some other of his items until we have a chance to look this over.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I have no objection.

Railways—

Intercolonial—To complete the Dartmouth branch	\$25,000
To supply and erect clock on tower of station at St. John.....	500

Mr. HAGGART. Perhaps the hon. gentleman the Minister of Railways and Canals will be kind enough to state for the information of the committee the state of efficiency in which the Intercolonial Railway road-bed and rolling stock now are. I saw a statement in the press, and perhaps the hon. gentleman will give an explanation of it. The statement was that the revenue and expenditure of the Intercolonial had been brought pretty nearly to a balance on ac-

count of the degradation of the road-bed and the rolling stock. I wish to know from the hon. gentleman and from the officers of his department, what state of efficiency the Intercolonial is in at present, both in regard to the road-bed and the rolling stock, as compared with any prior time.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman will probably find that information in the report which has been laid on the Table, at all events up to the end of the last fiscal year. I have no later data. I think that I perhaps could say that the Intercolonial is not in any less state of efficiency nor is its condition in any less satisfactory state now than it was at the close of the fiscal year ending 30th June last.

Mr. HAGGART. No, that is not satisfactory. I think that in the report there is a general statement that the road-bed and the rolling stock are in a very efficient state. I may say that when I was at the head of the department I gave strict orders to the officers who had charge of the Intercolonial Railway that neither the road-bed nor the rolling stock was to be in any way degraded, that they were to be kept up in a most efficient condition, and the hon. gentleman must know from the officers of the department whether this was carried out after the time that I left and whether the road is in as efficient a state as to any prior time. The Minister has his deputy there and he can ask him whether the statements I make are correct or not.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am not going to say, from personal knowledge, that the statement of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) is not correct. I have made no remark with reference to the condition of the Intercolonial Railway as the hon. gentleman left it, reflecting upon its condition, and I do not see why the hon. gentleman should assume that I did so.

Mr. HAGGART. I am not saying that you did.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am not at all reflecting on the hon. gentleman's management of the railway.

Mr. HAGGART. I see the hon. gentleman does not intend to answer that question. I see from the debates that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) stated a few days ago that during the last general election in June there were 400 more men employed than were usual. He made the comparison at the period which did not correspond with the period of the preceding year. I now tell the House and the Minister of Railways, that no official of my department, and no official of the Intercolonial got orders or even a hint from me, to employ any persons but those absolutely necessary for