

towards knighthood, who as one of the people, born of the people and who expects to die as one of the people—I, as a champion of the masses against the classes, now that our knight friend has forsaken the ranks and abandoned his democratic principles, stand up and demand that the ordinary member of this service should be admitted to the dignities and emoluments of this office, provided he is endowed with sufficient brains.

No person shall be eligible to be appointed Controller of the Railway Mail Service unless he has been for at least fifteen years employed in the Canada Post Office.

This is not very happy language. I do not know what the Canada post office is. The Canada Postal Department I know; the Postmaster General I know;—but who art thou?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. If you turn up the Post Office Act you will find the definition there.

Mr. POWELL. I have turned it up, and I find that the Post Master General is not responsible for this linguistic atrocity, but it is referable to some predecessor of his, who has embodied this barbaric language in the statutes of the country, and a great shame it is. That recalls the statute passed by the Arkansas legislature, which expressly declared that you should pronounce the word Arkansaw. It is true, as the Postmaster General says, that this language is found in the old Postal Service Act. If that is true it makes no difference. If a barbarity were committed, I do not see why it should be perpetuated. Let the Postmaster General, if he has an earnest, yearning desire to perfect this Bill, eliminate such barbarities. Let it be clothed in the purity of English language and English idiom. I object. As a constitutional principle, the Postmaster General is peculiarly sensitive on this point. In the reign of one of the Edwards it was determined that no longer should an unknown tongue be used in the statutes of this realm, but language drawn from the well of pure English undefiled. I appeal to the Postmaster General not to neglect these great constitutional principles in a matter of such overwhelming paramount importance as the Bill now before the House.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Will the hon. gentleman give us the statutes of Edward that he refers to?

Mr. POWELL. If the hon. gentleman will go and look through the parliamentary rolls, or black letter books, he will find the necessary information. They are very hard to understand; they are written in what is known as bastard Latin, which it would give the classical Postmaster General great pleasure to translate.

Mr. FOSTER. The chancellor will translate them.

Mr. POWELL.

Mr. POWELL. Yes, the chancellor of the greatest university in Canada, a master of linguistic science before whom Grimm and Condolle pale, a greater than Whitney of Yale, or Max Muller, a linguistic authority of great repute, Sir, in this country, whose achievements in Archaism and philological reasearch reflect glory on the country that has given him birth? I submit that these two features of the Bill are great blurs upon it, in my judgment, and I ask the Postmaster General, in the breadth of his knowledge and exquisiteness of his taste, to review the Bill, to perfect it, to give us something worthy of his reputation and the gigantic scheme he has in hand, and the tremendous objects he has in view.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Shall this clause be adopted?—Carried.

Mr. DUPONT—

Mr. FOSTER. We have not finished this discussion yet, and you should not, Mr. Chairman, say carried when an hon. gentleman is on his feet.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman was not on his feet.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has a right to discuss this question and we have never been in the habit of rushing these Bills.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The question was put and carried.

Mr. POWELL. The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) was right, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dupont) will have an opportunity of discussing the Bill upon the next clause.

On section 12,

No person shall be eligible to be appointed Controller of the Railway Mail Service unless he has been for at least fifteen years employed in the Canada Post Office.

Mr. POWELL. I think that period is entirely too long. If the Postmaster General really has any desire to see this Bill go through, I would suggest to him on the eve of this Sabbath day that we should all be ruled by a calm and heavenly frame of mind. I would suggest that he should exercise more of Christian charity than to keep a man out in the cold for fifteen years. I would suggest that the term be reduced to five years.

Mr. FOSTER. It is necessary when you want a controller that you should have a man well fitted for the position. What range of choice are you going to have so far as this limits you. How many of the mail clerks have been employed for more than fifteen years?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. It is not limited to the railway mail service.