

"My contract for the Kingsville and Pelee Island mail having expired on the 1st November, instant, you will please send me \$287, being the amount due me under said contract."

Upon this he received the following communication, endorsed upon the last-mentioned letter:—

"The contract never was accepted or entered upon or signed by the Postmaster-General. I must therefore refer you to him at Ottawa."

On the 13th November, Mr. Wright wrote to the Postmaster-General at Ottawa the following letter:—

"I entered into a contract for the conveyance of the mail between Kingsville and Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, from the 1st of May to the 1st of November, 1879, and was fully prepared to carry it out. On the 4th of November, instant, I wrote to the Post Office Inspector at London—a copy of which communication I herewith enclose. The letter was returned to me, with a memorandum endorsed thereon, referring me to the Postmaster-General at Ottawa."

"I now beg leave to submit my claim to your consideration, as I feel that I ought to be remunerated for my loss of time and expenses, as I made every arrangement necessary, and as my tender was accepted and contracts duly executed with sureties, I was prevented entering into any other engagement."

"I therefore claim that I am fully entitled to the amount of my contract."

To this letter he received a general acknowledgement, and upon the 6th December he received the following letter from the Department:—

"With further reference to your letter of the 15th ultimo, in which you claim payment for the conveyance of mails between Kingsville and Pelee Island, during the summer season of 1879, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to request that you will be so good as to state what the work was which you performed under your contract, and for which you claim to be paid."

He answered the Postmaster-General by setting forth his claim as given in the previous letter, to which he had received no reply, and upon the 6th of February he wrote again to the present Postmaster-General, as follows:—

"Will you allow me to call your attention to a mail contract I tendered for and entered into last summer for the conveyance of the mail to Point au Pelee Island. I wrote to the Inspector at London for my pay, and was by him referred to Ottawa. On the 11th of December, 1879, I wrote to the then Postmaster-General at Ottawa, but up to the present have had no reply. On that date I wrote claiming that, notwithstanding the non-performance of the work, I am entitled to be paid the amount of my contract, for it was not my fault, but the appar-

ent neglect of the Department, that the service was not performed; and as my tender was accepted and contract signed with sureties I was compelled to prepare for the service, and paid out money and involved myself to do so; besides, as it was a matter to which I would have had to give my personal attention, I have in consequence lost a whole summer's employment, for you will see my contract was not cancelled or my bonds released, and I was kept in waiting and suspense during the whole time. I trouble you with this letter since it appears I cannot get any answer from the Department, and I feel sure you will do me the favour to look the matter up."

To this letter he never received an answer. Now, Sir, the question I wish to submit is this: Mr. Wright tendered for this service in good faith. His tender was accepted. He got bondsmen who were accepted. The tender was never cancelled, the bonds were never released; and in consequence of that engagement he lost his summer's employment. I therefore submit to the Postmaster-General that he is fully entitled to his pay; and I hope, and make no doubt, that the present Postmaster-General will state that he has looked into this matter, and that the Department is willing to pay the man for his services.

MR. O'CONNOR: I was not the Postmaster-General when this affair took place, and I can only speak from the information I have obtained from the Department in the regular way. It seems that tenders were called for before 1st May last, for the carrying of the mails from Kingsville to Pelee Island, that Mr. Wright's was the lowest tender and that his tender was accepted. At that time it was supposed that the post-office on the island would be established by 1st May, but it turned out that the post-office was not ready until 1st September following. In the meantime, Mr. Wright was not called upon to perform any service under the tender accepted. It had been in the meantime suggested to the Postmaster-General that the service could be more efficiently and conveniently performed from a place called Leamington than from Kingsville; and, having come to the conclusion that that was the proper place from which to carry on the service over to Pelee Island, an offer was made to Mr. Wright to carry the mail from Leamington instead of Kingsville. He, however, declined to do so, and the Postmaster-General, in the interest of the public service, gave the contract to other parties.

MR. OLIVER.