

missed for cause, that he was not a good operator, and refusing to re-appoint him. I presume that at that time there was no signs of general elections, for when it was thought that we should have general elections in January last, Mr. Carbonneau wrote to Mr. Landry, in my office, telling him that unless employment was found for him before polling day, he and his family, who gave, I believe, six votes, always on the Conservative side, would vote against Mr. Landry. Now, Mr. Landry transmitted this letter to the hon. Minister of Railways who, on the 27th of January, not long before the election, as will be seen, gave Mr. Landry the following answer:—

“As requested by your letter of the 8th instant, I have much pleasure in stating that upon enquiry of my chief officers, I find that Mr. Odias Carbonneau is considered to be a very fair telegraph operator, and I should be much pleased to hear of his obtaining suitable employment.”

Thus, Mr. Speaker, on the 27th of January last, the Department of Railways said that they were informed that Mr. Carbonneau was a good operator, that he was an excellent officer, although before the elections during the months of November and December last, Mr. Carbonneau was a bad operator, had been dismissed for cause and nothing could be done for him. Well, Mr. Speaker, for this change of opinion I see no reason, except political reasons on the 27th of January, 1887. But what do we see next? On the 10th of February, 1887, a few days after this letter was written, Mr. McDonald, the Superintendent of the Intercolonial, gave Mr. Carbonneau leave to go to Chaudière where he was employed by the Government, and naturally his vote and the votes of his family were given to the candidate of the Government. And what do we see next? After the election he was discharged, and the reason given for this dismissal is the following, which I find in *Le Canadien* of the 11th of April, 1887:—

“The Chief Superintendent has refused to ratify your appointment at Ohaudière Curve, and I am obliged to say your services are no longer required.”

Mr. Speaker, the elections were over, the Government had received his vote and the votes of his family relations, and his usefulness was gone. Well, I have yet to learn that the Intercolonial Railway, which is a public property, the property of the Government, should be turned into a political engine, and used on the eve of elections to create offices and to obtain votes. In the first place, this appointment was very extraordinary. One of two things: either Mr. Carbonneau was dismissed for cause, or he was dismissed without cause. If he was dismissed for cause, it was exceedingly dangerous to re-appoint this man, who was not a good employé, who had already failed to do his duty on a previous occasion, for this incompetent officer might have been the cause of collisions, might have been the cause of endangering the lives of passengers. Consequently, he should not have been re-appointed, if he was not a good officer. On the other hand, if he was dismissed without cause after the elections, the Government were still wrong, because they had simply done an act of justice in re-appointing him, for I find his rehabilitation in the letter from the Minister of Railways, and I say the Government have wronged this man by dismissing him after securing his support and that of his family. Consequently, I desire to have all the papers and documents which are in the possession of the Department, in order to see whether, in the first place, this appointment was a political appointment, and, secondly, whether his dismissal was a political dismissal and was contrary to justice. As regards the case of Mr. Pelletier, I do not know the reason of his dismissal; but the reason given was the following: It is that that gentleman, who has not even the right to vote, has the misfortune of belonging to an essentially Liberal family. I desire that the documents concerning him should also be brought before the House. The dismissal of Mr. Gaumont is equally extraordinary. This

Mr. CHOQUETTE.

man has always been a friend to the Government; he had always supported my opponent until the last contest which took place in that county. He understood then, I suppose, that it was in the interest of the country that he should alter his opinion, and he expressed his opinion against the candidate of the Government. He was threatened at once and was told that if he persisted in his determination he would be dismissed. In spite of that, Mr. Speaker, he voted against the Government. In order to find a reason to dismiss him, the revising officer, with the foreman of the St. Thomas section, called upon Mr. Gaumont and asked him to go and see some of his political friends in order to obtain from them declarations to the effect that they might have received money for their votes. Mr. Gaumont answered that he was neither a traitor nor a spy, and he refused to stoop to the low work which he was asked to do. Two days after the voting there was a report of insubordination against him and he was dismissed. Well, Mr. Speaker, I again ask whether the Intercolonial Railway is a political engine, or if it ought to be managed according to justice and in the interests of the public? I move that these papers be brought down, and when they are before the House we will be enabled to see what were the reasons which have brought about these dismissals, which, at the present, certainly appear unjust and arbitrary.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I must tell the hon. gentleman that it would probably have been better for him to have waited until the papers were brought before the House before discussing the question. The papers not being before the House, it is impossible to appreciate the position in which were placed the three individuals whose names were given by the hon. gentleman in his motion. Consequently I will not now discuss the question whether any one of these gentlemen has been dismissed without sufficient cause, and I am satisfied that the House will withhold their judgment on this question until the papers are laid on the Table. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that we have no objection to bring down these papers and they will be laid before the House as soon as copied.

Motion agreed to.

FOREIGN REPRINTS.

Mr. EDGAR moved for:

Statement showing all sums collected since 1st October, 1868, under the provisions of Statutes and Orders in Council in that behalf, as duty on foreign reprints of British copyright works, giving the amounts so collected upon each copyright work, and showing the amounts remitted in each year to the Imperial Government for payment out to those beneficially interested in the copyright of such works.

He said: As I was informed the other day by the hon. the Minister of Justice, in reply to a question I put in the House, that the question of legislation on the subject of copyright laws was still under the consideration of the Government, I think it but right to try and get, for the information of the House, all the papers I can upon that important question. There is no doubt that a great boon was conferred upon the Canadian public—or, at least, the Canadian reading public—when the Imperial Government arranged some years ago that American or foreign reprints could be introduced and sold in Canada upon paying an author's tax of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem*. I am very much afraid that the authors have not appreciated that to a large extent, and have received, so far, very little recompense from the large number of American reprints of British copyright works that come into Canada every year. I am sure that nobody advocates, and that the people would not tolerate, any proposal to do away with the right of introducing into Canada reprints of English copyright works, but I am sure that no interest would suffer if the Canadian publishers were put upon the same footing as American publishers in the publishing and selling of English copy-