

ing the present system and I am not condemning the Postmaster General for having adopted a policy by which money may be saved to the revenue of the country ; but I condemn him for selecting one city, because that city happens to be represented by a Conservative, and making an example of it, and leave all the others unchanged ; and I condemn him for placing in the hands of any association the right to say to the postmaster whom he shall employ and whom he shall not employ, thereby delegating to others the power and the responsibility which devolves upon a minister of the Crown. You will find when these papers come down that what I have stated in reference to the instructions is literally correct. The office has been reduced and some four or five officers have been placed on the superannuation list, none of whom are fifty years of age, and that the sums paid them represent an amount, if capitalized, of some forty to fifty thousand dollars which is added to the public debt. If that is the manner in which the Post Office Department, or any other department of the government, is to be managed the sooner the government change their policy, or the sooner there is a change of administrators, the better it will be for the country. I wish it distinctly understood that I find no fault with a policy of economy, if the Postmaster General carries it out fairly and honestly, but I do object most decidedly that one city in the whole Dominion should be selected for the application of this policy when there are only three other cities whose offices cost less than the city of Belleville. I have made this explanation why I have moved for these papers in order that the whole of the facts may be before the public. I know what the government's defence is—economy. I say carry it out, and the Postmaster General will not find me or the people of Belleville though opposed to the government, condemn it ; but as long as it is confined to one locality while others cost the revenue more, I say it is a gross injustice to the people and a flagrant violation of the principles of the Superannuation Act.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Hon. gentlemen, I have listened with attention to the address to the House, on this motion, by my hon. friend who asked for information in respect to the Belleville post office and I trust that we shall be able to comply with the hon. gentleman's wishes. My hon. friend omitted to call attention to the fact that those regula-

tions, so far as they extend to city offices, were made under a former administration, and that if there was any extravagance, any impropriety in the regulations that were made in respect to Belleville, they were not to be charged upon the present Postmaster General but upon those who preceded him in office. My hon. friend also failed to call the attention of the House to the fact that there are a good many cities in Canada to which this rule was not applied, and that although they were allowed to stand, in so far as their postal accommodation was concerned, in the condition of town offices, they nevertheless were cities, and that the Postmaster General was justified in the course which he has taken in respect to Belleville. I think is abundantly evident from the relations which will be found to exist between the revenues and expenditure in a large number of offices which are similar in their circumstances to the city of Belleville. What my hon. friend has complained of really is, that the present Postmaster General has not extended to other cities the same rule which he has introduced in respect to Belleville, that is, that he has not undone the work of my hon. friend and those who were associated with him in the government that preceded him in office to a larger extent than this to the present moment. My hon. friend will be better able to criticise the Postmaster General in that direction when he sees really what the Postmaster General, when he becomes thoroughly conversant with all the business of the office, is able to accomplish in that direction. My hon. friend said the Postmaster General was actuated altogether by political considerations in respect to the Belleville office, and that the punishment as he regards it, which has been inflicted upon the postmaster and those who were employed in the old office, was due to the fact that that is a Conservative city. Well, there are a great many Conservative cities in Canada, and the Postmaster General has not dealt with them as my hon. friend complains he has dealt with Belleville, and I think that my hon. friend will discover that there are other considerations which are of not a little public importance, by which the Postmaster General might be actuated other than the fierce partizan motives attributed to him by the hon. gentleman. Now let me take the case of the city of Brantford. That city has a postal revenue of \$25,638.