

reason being assigned, the supposition may be that it was for dishonesty or incompetency or something of that kind, and he may find it difficult to obtain another position. Suppose the official of a bank is dismissed without any reason being given, what other bank is going to engage him? He must have as it were a clearance from his last employer. Take a railway conductor or operator who has been dismissed in the same way, if he goes to seek employment elsewhere, the first question he is asked is why he left his last employment. Therefore, I say the Minister of Public Works inflicts a great hardship on this man by dismissing him without assigning any reason, even if he had no better reason than that he was a political partisan. I hope he will do at least this measure of justice to Captain Decoste, that he will give the reason for his dismissal and give him an investigation. I rather suspect that the minister has been imposed upon in connection with this matter. I have an idea that the facts were not correctly represented to him. I know Captain Peter Decoste, who is a man highly respected in the community in which he lives and wherever he is known. While he has his opinions and exercises his franchise and has the courage of his political convictions, he is not by any means an offensive partisan. I would like to know what means the Minister of Public Works has of judging what an offensive partisan is. If a man simply exercises his franchise, is he to be dismissed? If a man happens honestly to believe that a certain policy is the best for the country, exercises his franchise accordingly, and gives expression to his convictions without being offensive or making himself a nuisance to the public, I think it is unfair for the administration to dismiss him because he happens to be a Liberal. I would say that the least expected of a man in the service of the country, whether Liberal or Conservative, is that he should be faithful to his employers; but he should surely be allowed to give expression to his views without being called an offensive partisan. What I regard as an offensive partisan is a man who goes about provoking controversy and making himself a public nuisance and not discharging properly the duties of his office. The Minister of Public Works gave us this evening one of the sermonettes that we heard from him quite frequently when he was on this side of the House. In the cold shades of opposition he used to preach virtue loudly and eloquently; but it was a rather hyperborean atmosphere, because he was not in much more favour with his own friends than he was with the Liberals. I am afraid it is a case of

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish).

When the deil was sick the deil a monk would be,
When the deil was well the deil a monk was he.

When he has the reins of office in his hands, and is pressed on all sides by ravenous wolves looking for jobs, he falls from grace, and shows that he is not entitled to be placed on that high pedestal upon which we have been accustomed to place him.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION AGREED TO WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

For a copy of all papers, correspondence and orders in council in connection with and relating to the dismissal from office of public officials from each of the departments of the government from the fourteenth day of July, 1896, to the 10th day of October, 1911, including both the inside and the outside service.—Mr. Goodeve.

ADJOURNMENT—THE OTTAWA POST OFFICE

Mr. FOSTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. PELLETIER. Before the House adjourns, I desire to give a little more information in regard to the unfortunate occurrence at the city post office to-day. In the first place, I may inform hon. members that the mails from this House and the Senate to-night and to-morrow morning will not be taken to the city post office, but will be taken directly to the trains. Every possible precaution has been taken by the health authorities with the co-operation and concurrence of the department. The mails are being fumigated to-night, and the process will last until six or seven o'clock to-morrow morning. All mails which had not left the office when the event became known have been kept there to be fumigated. The public will understand that it is better to have a little delay in the mails than to run any danger. It is probable that all the employees in the city post office will be vaccinated to-morrow.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What business will be taken up to-morrow?

Mr. FOSTER (Toronto). There may be one or two Bills, which are on the order paper and after that Supply. We will deal with the estimates of the Minister of Customs in the afternoon and then with those of the Minister of Public Works.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.49 p.m.