

was no gentleman looking after the patronage in my constituency? I would like to know who the person is, whether gentleman or otherwise, who asked for the dismissal of these men.

An hon. MEMBER: It might have been a lady.

Mr. POULIOT: If it was not a man, it must have been a woman, but not a lady. I would like to have an answer from the minister.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can assure the hon. member there is no woman in this case.

Mr. POULIOT: I ask the minister again, with all the suavity and politeness I possess: will he please tell me who that man is?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I would say that there is no man in the case at all.

Mr. POULIOT: Is it not a fact that those men who had been doing such good service were dismissed at the request of Mr. C. E. Dube, the mayor of Riviere-du-Loup and the perpetual Tory candidate in Temiscouata county?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I have no doubt that these men had rendered excellent service before July 28 but it was found that their services were not as necessary after that date as they had been before.

Mr. POULIOT: I ask again if those men who were working in July were dismissed at the request of Mr. C. E. Dube, the perpetual Tory candidate in Temiscouata county.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can assure my hon. friend they were not.

Mr. POULIOT: Were new men appointed on the recommendation of the same Mr. Dube, whether he can be described as a gentleman, lady or anything else?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The foreman made a selection of the new men, but I do not know upon whose recommendation or upon whose advice he acted.

Mr. POULIOT: I am getting nearer and nearer to an answer. Who recommended the appointment of the foreman?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The district engineer was instructed to look around and obtain a first class foreman.

Mr. POULIOT: Who recommended that man to the district engineer?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I really do not know.

Mr. POULIOT: Will the minister be kind enough to tell me what instructions he gave to the district engineer in that respect, or to the chief engineer in order that he pass those instructions on to the district engineer, or to the deputy minister to be given to the secretary of the department and then passed on to the chief engineer, so that the latter might communicate with the district engineer?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Being rather inexperienced when I came into the department, I gave instructions to the officials that in matters of this kind the usual course should be followed.

Mr. POULIOT: What is the usual course?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I really do not know.

Mr. POULIOT: Am I to assume from the unwillingness of the minister to answer my question that that is all the information I can get? This is a very serious matter and I am trying to find out just what has been done. The employees to whom I refer had been working there for some years and had been doing their work to the entire satisfaction of the department. Although the work was done by day labour it is a rather surprising fact that the expenditure was always kept within the vote for that purpose. Last year there was a change in the personnel of the day labourers employed on that work. According to information that I have received from a reliable source, a certain man was appointed as foreman upon the recommendation of Mr. Dubé, the defeated Tory candidate in Temiscouata. He took the place of the foreman who had previously been employed on that work. What happened was a real scandal. There is no reason to laugh about it, because money was stolen from this country by the last foreman who had to pay it back to the department afterwards. I would ask the minister if he has kept on file in his department the original pay lists which were sent by that foreman to the district engineer—the original pay lists, not the revised ones.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Anything that was ever on file on the department is there still. Instructions have been given to the district engineer to investigate this alleged irregularity to the bottom. When I get his report I purpose handing the matter over to the Department of Justice for whatever action may be necessary.

Mr. POULIOT: That is very satisfactory, but I wish to stress the fact that that man was a very lazy fellow and unable to do