

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). There is no contradiction between the Speech from the Throne and the remarks of my hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) here quoted. The arrangements with regard to the extension of the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal involve not only the Grand Trunk Railway, but another company, as the papers will show when they are brought down. So far as the Grand Trunk Railway is concerned, though the main features of the arrangements are complete, there are yet important details to be settled.

MR. F. X. SMITH, CAPE GASPE.

Mr. HUGHES (for Mr. Casgrain) asked :

1. Has F. X. Smith, lighthouse keeper of Cape Gaspé, been dismissed?
2. If so, for what reason and at whose request?
3. Was an investigation held in the case of the said Smith?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). Mr. F. X. Smith has been dismissed. He was dismissed for active political partisanship, on the representations made by Mr. Fauvel, then member for the county, and, as these representations were so strong and were given on his personal knowledge and honour, no investigation was deemed necessary.

POSTMASTER, NORTHFIELD, B.C.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Why was Mrs. Isabella R. McManus deprived of her position as postmistress of Northfield, B.C.?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). The postmaster in question was dismissed because of the overbearing conduct of the postmaster and her husband towards many persons who were obliged to visit the post office.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call my hon. friend's (Mr. Mulock's) attention to the question, which is :

Why was Mrs. Isabella R. McManus deprived of her position as postmistress of Northfield, B.C.?

Her husband is not now living. I would ask an answer to the question.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** I have given the answer.

Mr. DAVIN. Has her husband been overbearing since he died ?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** The term "postmaster" is applied to the occupant of the office whether male or female. In this case the postmaster was Mrs. McManus. Her husband is living. The report of the inspector was to the effect that they had both been overbearing in their demeanour to many persons who had occasion to visit the office.

CLERKS OF WORKS AND PRIVATE PRACTICE.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether a clerk of works earning a large salary from the Government, is allowed to pursue his private practice as an architect and draughtsman?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). I do not know of the existence of such a case.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would call your attention to the fact that that is not an answer to my question.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) cannot cross-examine.

CHARGES AGAINST THE POSTMASTER, COBOURG, ONT.

Mr. LANDERKIN (for Mr. Cameron) asked :

Does the Government intend to lay on the Table of the House the report of the commissioner appointed to investigate into the charges against the postmaster at Cobourg and the collector of customs there, and others implicated in such charges, and the evidence taken in such investigation?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). I would suggest that a motion be made for the papers, and they will be placed upon the Table.

INDIAN SUPPLIES.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Will the Minister of the Interior lay on the Table the letter of Mr. McColl, an officer of the Indian Department in Manitoba, in which letter he explained the reason why he ceased to deal for Indian supplies at the Hudson Bay Company's store in Winnipeg?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). The department has not received any such letter from Mr. McColl.

SUPERANNUATION OF MR. CHARLES THIBAUT.

Mr. PARMELEE asked :

1. Is Mr. Charles Thibault, advocate, of Waterloo, Que., drawing a pension under the Superannuation Act?

2. If so, how much did he contribute to the fund, and how much has he drawn out?

3. What was the nature and length of his services, and did they entitle him to superannuation and a pension?

4. How much was he paid in salary while in the service?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). 1. Yes. 2. Amount contributed, \$322.10; amount drawn from the 1st September, 1889, to 31st March, 1897, at \$760 per annum, \$6,143.01. 3. He was