

dale, in the county of Annapolis? If so, what was the complaint? Who made it? Was there any investigation held? If so, what was proven?

2. Has the said James H. Thorne been dismissed from the said postmastership? If so, why?

3. Did one Daniel J. Riordan make a complaint against said Thorne?

4. Is the said Daniel J. Riordan now the postmaster of Karsdale?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. A charge of offensive political partisanship was made by the Honourable J. W. Longley and Daniel J. Riordan against J. H. Thorne, postmaster of Karsdale. An investigation was held before C. J. Macdonald, post office inspector, the charge was attested by D. J. Riordan under oath. 2. The office was closed 1st of April, 1897. 3. There was a complaint of Daniel J. Riordan dated 12th of December, 1896. 4. No, the office was closed.

#### DISMISSALS OF DAVID COVERT AND D. J. RIORDAN.

Mr. MILLS asked :

1. Has David Covert, of Annapolis county, been dismissed from the office of postmaster of Thorneville?

2. If so, was there a complaint made against him, what was the nature of such complaint, who made the complaint?

3. Was there an investigation held, before whom, what was proven at such investigation, who were the witnesses?

4. Was one Daniel J. Riordan the complainant, was he a witness?

5. Who is now the postmaster of Thorneville Post Office?

6. Is Daniel J. Riordan a postmaster in Annapolis county? If so, in what office? When was he appointed? Who are his bondsmen?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. The office was closed 1st of April, 1897. 2. A charge of offensive political partisanship was made by the Hon. J. W. Longley and Daniel J. Riordan. 3. An investigation was held before C. J. Macdonald, post office inspector; charges were made by D. J. Riordan, under oath. The witnesses were Riordan, the postmaster and the postmaster's son. 4. There was a complaint by Daniel J. Riordan under date of 12th October, 1896. 5. The office is closed. 6. Yes, he was appointed to postmastership of a new office established at Thorne Cove, midway between Thorneville and Karsdale, on 1st of April, 1897. Postmaster's bond has not yet been received.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MR. WILFRID MERCIER.

Mr. LaRIVIERE (for Mr. Bergeron) asked:

1. By whom was Mr. Wilfrid Mercier, barrister, of Montreal, appointed a commissioner to hold an inquiry respecting the post office at Valleyfield, province of Quebec?

2. How much does he receive per day as remuneration and for travelling expenses?

3. Has he power to swear the witnesses and (4) to pay them?

5. Can he act as barrister, clerk and judge?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Under the authority of an Order in Council dated the 27th of November, 1896, issued under the provisions of chapter 115 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, Wilfrid Mercier was appointed a commissioner to hold inquiry respecting the conduct of the postmaster at Valleyfield, his allowance being three dollars a day for living expenses, his actual travelling expenses, and ten dollars a day for his services, with such powers as are, by the said Act, conferred upon commissioners appointed thereunder.

#### BELLE RIVER BREAKWATER.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to place a sum in the Supplementary Estimates for the extension of Belle River breakwater, in Prince Edward Island?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The question is under consideration.

#### MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

Who was acting for the Government in the negotiations of a settlement of the school question with the Government of the province of Manitoba, and what were his instructions? Has he made a report, and if so, will the same be submitted to this House?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The negotiations for the settlement of the Manitoba school question were conducted by the Government themselves. No authority was delegated to any one.

#### POSTAL DELIVERY OF CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. BERGERON asked :

Is the hon. the Postmaster General aware that the postmaster of St. Timothy, in the county of Beauharnois, who, by the way, is absent, the office being held by his wife, refuses to deliver the Conservative newspapers which are addressed to bona fide subscribers? Will the Postmaster General take means to prevent such abuse?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The Postmaster General is not aware that the postmaster at St. Timothy, in the county of Beauharnois, refuses to deliver Conservative newspapers addressed to bona fide subscribers. If such abuse exists and the Postmaster General is notified thereof, he will deem it his duty to take prompt measures to put an end to it.

#### QUEBEC ORIENTAL RAILWAY.

Mr. BELCOURT (for Mr. Choquette) asked :