

This, it will be observed, was on the 2nd November, 1896. The removal of Auguste Lefebvre took place, I think, in March of this year.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The day before the by-election.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Very well, have it that way.

Of all the most obnoxious partisans against us during the late and previous elections, Mr. Lefebvre was, I may say, the worst, and I should deem it a special favour that he should be removed as soon as possible. He has repudiated, by letter, the accusations that I had previously placed before you, but this does not amount to much, as the greatest criminals in the courts of justice will invariably plead not guilty.

Mr. Fauvel accompanied these letters of 1st October with the statement of Mr. Perron, who lives at Carleton, and who says:

At the request of Mr. W. LeB. Fauvel, I have the honour to place before you the following facts with reference to the postmaster at Carleton. Mr. Auguste Lefebvre, the present postmaster at Carleton, is the son of Jean Lefebvre, who resigned his position on the 1st June.

I will omit a part that seems to have no reference to the subject.

During the last electoral struggle, in the post office and before many persons, one of the postmaster's brothers-in-law spoke infamously against Mr. Laurier,—

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Why did you not dismiss the brother-in-law?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Have patience.

—branding him as a renegade, and saying that he trampled upon Christ himself. Infamies of this kind were repeated every day before the Liberals. During the whole time of the struggle the post office was the place of rendezvous for the Conservatives, the place where they met to organize for the fight. On the eve of the nomination, Auguste Lefebvre himself went to Dalhousie for Hon. L. Philippe Pelletier and other speakers, and on the morning of the nomination he accompanied the Conservative candidate to the house of the returning officer. Since the election, his children have called their animals by the name of Fauvel, &c. The post office is far from being a secret place. If a letter is sent or received from a political leader, all the Conservatives know it immediately. For some years, registered letters have been stolen at the post office.

And so on. Mr. Fauvel, at all events, believed that assertion to be correct, and he further asserted of his own knowledge concerning this officer: "Of all the most obnoxious partisans against us during the late and preceding elections, Mr. Lefebvre was, I may say, the worst." On the 13th March, 1897—that is the day before the voting, my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron) says:

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Hear, hear.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Two other members, the hon. member for Chi-

coutimi (Mr. Savard) and the hon. member from Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) gave me their word by telegram as follows:—

Postmaster Lefebvre, of Carleton, has been violent partisan. Replace him by Joseph Boudreau.
(Sgd.) P. V. SAVARD.
(Sgd.) O. E. TALBOT.

On the statement of hon. gentlemen who are here to explain for themselves, I considered the case fully established, as I accepted the word of these gentlemen, and acted accordingly.

Mr. WALLACE. I believe that the increase to these two gentlemen, Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Smith is totally unjustifiable. This is not an honorarium for a service rendered this year, but it a permanent increase of salary of \$300 per annum.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No, it is not permanent.

Mr. WALLACE. It says: "To provide an addition of \$150 each to the salaries of A. Lindsay and W. Smith, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act." The hon. gentleman said, a while ago, they had to obey the law. Why did not they obey the law in this case? That is proposing to violate the law, and asking Parliament to consent to it, or to make a new law applicable to these two gentlemen. He says Mr. Lindsay is affable, polite, industrious, and so on. I presume that we have hundreds in the civil service who are so. I know there are men in the Department of Customs who, during the three years that I was there, came back almost every night to work, and I will venture to say, worked longer hours than either Mr. Lindsay or Mr. Smith, and did not get \$150 increase contrary to law. They were not asked to do any dirty work, either. I contend this increase is for all the time they may be in the service. I presume it is not the intention to decrease their salaries next year. Now, I wish to call attention to another matter. I heard a prominent official in the Post Office Department, some time ago, say there had not been a dismissal in the post office for political reasons for forty years. He could not say that now, because there have been dismissals by the score, by the hundreds, perhaps. We do not know how many, because sometimes there are investigations, and sometimes they are dismissed without any investigation. In my opinion, the postmasters of this country are a class which should not be dealt with as civil servants are. A member of the civil service gets a salary sufficient for his maintenance, and gets increases as the years go on, if he proves efficient, and he is superannuated at the end of his time. Postmasters are not in that position; they cannot be superannuated. They receive small salaries, ranging from \$20 up to \$100, and sometimes \$400 or \$500. They are not in the same class; therefore, I claim that they