

Brunswick and they know something about that case. I am informed, and credibly informed, that this is one of the worse cases that could be put before the House, that the postmaster there is a violent partisan.

Mr. CARVELL. We would like some proof of that.

Mr. PELLETIER. If my hon. friend will wire down to Woodstock, he will get it. I have all the information I require to justify me in acting as I did. There are members on this side of the House who know something about it; I have consulted them, and they have told me that there is not the least possible doubt about this case. With regard to the Bath case, as the papers have not arrived, I am not in a position to discuss it, but I feel sure that I have not applied to that case any other principle than the one I have stated, which the hon. member for Carleton found to be so good that he greeted my statement with applause.

Mr. CARVELL. If the hon. Postmaster General finds himself in error about the Bath case, will he reopen the matter and allow an investigation?

Mr. PELLETIER. Most decidedly. As a minister of the Crown it is my duty, and I will not be a party to injustice. But I will try to give prompt satisfaction to the people who expect us to do something, and not let the papers lie on our desks, or in the pigeon holes of the department for too long a time. I wanted to let our friends on both sides of the House know that there is no doubt about the stand which I have taken, and which I will continue to take.

Mr. MACDONALD. I am sure that my hon. friend the Premier did not realize, when addressing the House earlier in the afternoon, that he was giving to the House and the country a splendid opportunity of learning the principles on which his administration was going to act, and did not know that his Postmaster General had made a very large addition to the resolution, which every one in this House agreed to in 1905, and which the Premier adopted as the policy of his government in dealing with the outside service.

My hon. friend from Lincoln was the first to announce this additional feature of the Conservative policy. In the early days of the session he was not very enthusiastic about the personnel of this government, and not specially pleased that his abilities were not recognized in its formation. Evidently, however, he has got new light; he has had a vision. He has been informed that he can have removed all the employees on the Welland canal he wants to have removed. Since then he has discovered some admiration for the present government. If he will now only bring on some

of those resolutions that have been standing in his name for the last four weeks, every member of the House will be interested.

He has told the Postmaster General that there was a postmaster at Beamsville who was dismissed and the result was that 'Gibson was in the soup,' and that the county of Lincoln was in the same predicament ever since 1896, on account of the wholesale dismissals made at that time. Well, if history should repeat itself as it often does, my hon. friend from Lincoln had better be careful because should the policy of this administration be carried into effect both he and the Postmaster General will speedily find themselves in the soup. Then we are told that it is not the spoils system, but a simple matter of restitution of rights which is being put into force. Here we have the old Conservative doctrine that they have an inherent divine right to rule, and that no one not belonging to that party has any right to hold any office in the administration of the country, and consequently that because in some time past Conservatives went out of office in some places and vacancies were created which were filled by Liberals, these offices must be filled again by Conservatives. My hon. friend the Postmaster General is too shrewd not to know that Mr. Henley, postmaster of Spry Bay, was the vice-president of the Conservative Association. If Mr. Henley was vice-president of the Conservative Association he ought to have been dismissed. My hon. friend cannot, with his theory of restitution, set aside the doctrine which the First Minister put forward as the basis on which this government would act and which he preached so loudly in his addresses to the people. No one who sat in the last parliament can fail to recollect the different occasions on which he preached about the evils of patronage. Look at the resolution moved by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) two years ago denouncing the evils of patronage. But my hon. friend is there and we are here. He is there and he can implement these splendid ideas which he so frequently inculcated when on this side. The Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier) says that we want the men on the treasury benches to be great saints. We do not expect them to be great saints. We expect them to turn out as great sinners as did their Conservative predecessors when they had to give up office, as these hon. gentlemen will have to do at an early day. I thought we were going to have a clear understanding of what the policy of this government was going to be regarding this large question. I thought that the First Minister and the Minister of Trade and Commerce were going to make an attempt to give us something tangible in