

pointed under the Act of 1873 had gone out of office. There were 97 of those inspectors. It was said in another place officially that under this Act the new government appointed 67 inspectors and deputy inspectors. Of the whole 67, only seven had been in office before; so that here were 90 poor civil servants summarily cast upon the world and the hon. leader of the opposition gave us a lesson in logic when he said the reason of that was that the government which, was in power from 1874 to 1878, had not given these men enough work to do. That was no reason for dismissing the men who, I presume, were quite anxious to work. We have the evidence of the hon. gentleman from Iberville in one case. He said that so far as his knowledge went, the officer was a good officer. My impression is, that the officer in Halifax was a man with whom no serious fault could be found. That was the way in which ninety civil servants were got rid of by the late administration. It throws a peculiar light on the statement made by the hon. gentleman from Marshfield. He said that the Liberal-Conservatives had not been indecent enough to openly avow that they were dismissing men for political reasons, and he seemed to claim that as a great virtue. It has been said that hypocrisy is the homage which vice renders to virtue; but I do not think as a rule hypocrisy is looked upon as an admirable thing, and this was a piece of political hypocrisy, consolidating the Weights and Measures Act for the purpose of getting rid of ninety Liberal employes, and substituting sixty Conservative employes for those so got rid of. It would have been better to have been open and manly about it and dismissed the men in a straightforward way, and not added falsehood and deceit to cruelty. We are dealing with what was done by our friends opposite, because I think it is a perfectly reasonable and fair thing to see how they interpreted the rule with respect to civil servants and to government employes. I should like to direct the attention of the leader of the opposition to one piece of literature in which he ought to have a special interest. I may be excused for referring to a past debate on the same subject, in which the hon. gentleman referred to the withdrawal of a license for the sale of postage stamps from a gentleman in Toronto. I said that the same thing had taken place in Halifax and I gave the names of the per-

sons interested. I happen to have under my hand a document from the Post Office Department at Ottawa, dated the 23rd December, 1878. The hon. gentleman must remember that that was soon after the Conservative party came into power. This is from the secretary of the Post Office Department addressed to the vendor of postage stamps in the post office at Montreal. It is as follows:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OTTAWA, 23rd Dec., 1878.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Postmaster General to inform you that the stand at present occupied by you in the Montreal post office must be vacated on or before the 14th January, 1879.

I am sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. WHITE.

Secretary.

MR. E. PERRY,
Stamp Vendor,
Post Office, Montreal.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—
Was any cause given?

Hon. Mr. POWER—No cause was given. That is a case similar to the one mentioned yesterday. The hon. gentleman was himself a member of the government of that day.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Is that the whole of the letter?

Hon. Mr. POWER—Yes, that is the whole of the letter.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—
You might order the removal of the stamp vendor without dismissing the man.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That is too thin.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—
The hon. gentleman's excessive politeness we will excuse under the circumstances, but I can tell him this, I did precisely the same thing in the city of Hamilton and in the city of Quebec with reference to brokers who had stands in the custom-houses, because they took up room and interfered with the business of the department. No interference was attempted with them as to their acting as brokers and doing business in the custom-house. Their stands were removed—this may be a similar case.