

the interests of the travelling public if the same system were adopted in this country as prevails on some American roads: that is to sell a book of tickets, paying so much per mile and travelling when you like, or in whatever direction. I cannot understand why there should be any distinction between a person travelling one day and a person travelling on another. If a person pays for 100 miles of travel he should be able to take out the value of that ticket and there would be no trouble or expense to the company; there is no difference to the company whether he travel on the 1st of the month, the 15th or the 30th. There might be some difficulty in making up the books, but I think that might be done away with by selling, as is done on the St. Paul and Minneapolis, and other American lines, ticket books, containing a number of tickets, each one representing a mile of travel. Under such a system there would be no difficulty about passengers coming back within the time they expected, or not. I must say I think that the Bill passed last year or the year before, destroying the right of a passenger to be carried over a road when he paid for the whole trip, unless he kept within the stipulations and limitations of the company, was a great mistake; and I think the day will come, at no distant time, when railway companies will be compelled to carry passengers over their roads for the distance they paid for their ticket, no matter whether it is within the number of days specified on the ticket or not.

Motion agreed to.

CHARLINCH POST OFFICE.

Mr. BLAKE moved for:

All papers, reports, correspondence, Orders in Council and departmental orders with reference to the appointment or removal of the postmaster at Charlinch post office, or as to a change in the office.

He said: My hon. friend from Bellechasse (Mr. Amyot), objected to this motion passing the other day, so I suppose I must give some explanation with regard to it. My explanation is, that I have been informed by a person residing in the locality that this removal of the office, or change of the postmaster, has taken place under unjustifiable circumstances. It is said that the ground upon which the change is made is that the office is now in a more convenient situation. Some years ago the Post Office Department stated that they would move the post office on this account, but since that time the road by which access was had, and which was said to be a bad road, has been improved, under the arrangements made by the Ontario Government for attending to the colonisation roads in these remote districts; and there no longer exists any ground of complaint, and the inspector stated that in consequence the post office should not be removed. Last fall, it is said, notice was received on the subject again, and following on that, a petition was prepared and sent down, with no less than forty-four signatures—a very large number from a sparse rural community, such as that in which the post office is situated—but the petition does not seem to have had the effect of averting the decision of the Government to remove the post office for some distance. It is stated that unfortunately the old postmaster has not the same political proclivities as the hon. the Postmaster General, and that he has been taking his part as a Canadian in some of the violent contests which have taken place in the district of Muskoka; and though I do not say that the Postmaster General himself has been influenced by that consideration—I know he is above that—some of his ardent supporters, who look at these things on a lower level, have, it is said, been moved, on that ground, to make representations to bring about the change. I know that the postmaster has very great claims for consideration; for it seems, from the papers which have been put in my hands, that he was so poor that he was not able to pay his taxes, and the

Mr. SPOULLE,

council agreed to grant a postponement of the payment, by reason of his circumstances.

Mr. CARLING. I have no objection to bringing down the papers. I was not aware of the political proclivities of the gentleman in question, but I know that application was made to have the post office removed to a more central situation, for the convenience of the public, and that with the concurrence of the inspector, and on his written report the post office was removed, I believe, to the satisfaction of the neighborhood.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I suppose that on the principle that no one of Her Majesty's subjects should be deprived of the right to have his wrongs brought before the tribunal of the House of Commons, the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) may consider himself justified in bringing this very small matter to the attention of the House. I may briefly state the circumstances of the case, in my own justification, because I would, no doubt, be held responsible in connection with the matter—to some extent, at all events. This post office, as first established, was midway between two settlements, one on the east and the other on the west. The one on the east grew larger and more important than the other, and it became entitled to have a post office, and one was established there. In consequence of this, the post office now called Charlinch became of less value to the settlement generally, and it was inconvenient in all respects. In the first place, it was entirely on one side of the remaining portion of the settlement, and it was also a considerable distance off the road by which the mails were carried, and the mail carrier had to go very considerably out of his way to serve this post office. On these grounds, therefore, the post office was inconveniently situated. But for my own part, I was very unwilling to disturb the postmaster, more especially, if the hon. gentleman will give me credit for the sentiment, because he was a political opponent, and I give my word that in no single instance have I opposed the appointment of a postmaster on political grounds. On the contrary, I have recommended an opponent, when he has been able more conveniently to serve the public than one of my own friends would be. However, the matter came to be discussed in the settlement, and the postmaster of Charlinch agreed to remove the post office to the main road. He gave me that pledge himself. He was allowed more than a year to carry out that pledge. He failed to carry it out, and after that, in consequence of the remonstrances made by the settlers, the Postmaster General had the post office removed. The postmaster therefore has no one to blame but himself; and the change was made entirely in the public interest. The man who has the post office now is perfectly qualified. As to his not paying his taxes, that I know nothing about. On the recommendation of many of the neighbors I think the Postmaster General will find that he was perfectly justified in making the change. So far as I am concerned, I am prepared to take all the responsibility that rests upon me in the matter.

Motion agreed to.

THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT.

Mr. EDGAR moved that the House resolve itself into Committee to consider the following resolutions:—

1. That the present position of the copyright law in Canada is anomalous and unfair to the public, to the printing and publishing trades and to the authors of this country.
2. That without further legislation in the Imperial Parliament the Parliament of Canada is powerless to make laws to deal with the whole question of copyright in Canada, because it has been authoritatively decided that any person who obtains a British copyright possesses the sole and exclusive right of reprinting the work in Canada, and that no legislation of the Dominion can effect such right.
3. That in order to place Canadian publishers upon the same footing as American publishers, in regard to the reprinting of British copyright works, a Bill was unanimously passed by the Dominion Parliament, in