

man and the circumstances of the case if I move that the debate be adjourned. When it again comes up these gentlemen will be present and able to announce the policy of the Government upon the matter, and I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESENT* GOVERNMENT.

Order being called for the following notice of motion in the name of Sir Charles Tupper :—

Copy of Schedule B, showing recommendations of the Treasury Board as submitted by report of Council to His Excellency the Governor General on the 6th and 7th July, 1896, and intended to be approved by him, laid upon the Table of the House last session, with a statement of the action taken by the Government on each of these appointments as made by the said Order in Council approved by His Excellency, or, where no action has been taken, the reason for such a course.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). May I ask the hon. gentleman if he intends to preface his motion by lengthened remarks?

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Yes.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I should like the Premier to be present.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I took the opportunity of saying some time ago to the First Minister that I intended to speak on this motion.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not wish to stop the hon. gentleman.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I extremely regret his absence, because it is very important that he should be here.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I will note whatever the hon. gentleman says.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I am very sorry that the First Minister is not here.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I regret to say that his absence is quite unavoidable, a matter of very grave importance is detaining him.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Well, Mr. Speaker, as my remarks on this motion were to be so mainly directed to statements made by the First Minister, perhaps I had better allow this motion to stand and take it up again. I suggest to my hon. friend who is leading the House, that I should have as early an opportunity as possible of making this motion.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The motion will stand nearly
Mr. **DAVIES**.

at the top—there are very few motions before it.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I hope I shall have an early opportunity of making the motion.

Mr. **DAVIN**. Why not put it at the top?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There is no other formal motion before it.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Under the circumstances, at the request of my hon. friend opposite, I will allow the motion to stand.

DISMISSALS OF POSTMASTERS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. **MARTIN** moved for :

Copies of all correspondence, papers, petitions, &c., in connection with the dismissal of the late postmaster at Little Sands, province of Prince Edward Island.

He said : I may say, Mr. Speaker, that since I placed this notice on the Order paper, I have learned that a gentleman has been dismissed from the office of postmaster in Prince Edward Island, who had occupied that position for 30 years, I mean Mr. David Ross, of Kinross in Prince Edward Island. I can assure you that the action of the department has caused great surprise in Prince Edward Island, because we had never supposed hitherto that the office of postmaster was a political one. It never was so considered in Prince Edward Island. The people down there are surprised that the exigencies of the Liberal party are such as to require the dismissal of an official of so long standing as the gentleman I have named, whose appointment antedates confederation, as well as many others who attended to their duties and performed them faithfully and well, without any political or other reasons being given, and entirely because some other persons wanted the positions. We were told by the leader of the Government that he was a Liberal of the English school. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that it would be very hard indeed to find in the annals of modern Liberalism in England anything to parallel the dismissals to which I am calling attention ; you will search in vain the annals of the Liberalism of to-day in Great Britain to find anything like the indiscriminate discharge of officials all over Canada, especially of officials like postmasters, whose salaries, as everybody knows, are very small. They were never accounted as political partisans, and the office was never held to be a political office, and in Prince Edward Island there has never been any charge of political partisanship made against the gentleman mentioned in my motion. Instead of being Liberals of the English school, the policy adopted by hon. gentlemen opposite shows that they are