

Mr. FOSTER. Is he certain of that?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I gave the answer of Mr. Stanton, I think it is, who is in charge of the branch, the answer that he gave me. I know nothing about the details, but I will make inquiry again and see if he is in error.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The Postmaster General knows that when the Jubilee stamps were issued a certain amount of ordinary stamps had been issued already, and these can be accounted for under the returns coming in from the various post offices. Now, if the Postmaster General will look into the amount of the Jubilee stamps which he has issued, and take the amount of the old outstanding stamps which were in existence when he issued the Jubilee stamps, he can arrive at a solution of the difficulty.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No, you have to ask for further returns.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I beg to differ with the hon. gentleman. He knows that the stamps which are issued must be accounted for by the different postmasters. There can be no question about that. That is a fact well known in the post office, and cannot be contested. Now, up to a certain period of time, there was only one class of stamps, that is the old stamps. Accounts must have come in regularly—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman will allow me to point out the irregularity of his making a speech now, when a mere question was asked by courtesy.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am not making a speech.

Mr. SPEAKER. Then I am afraid I do and know what a speech is. There is nothing at all before the House, the hon. gentleman sees this is quite irregular. I must insist on carrying out the rule.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I really do not mean to make a speech, I am putting a question to the hon. gentleman. I ask the hon. gentleman whether he cannot make out a statement according to the rule which I have just laid down, and which every officer in his department knows.

Mr. WALLACE. I should like to ask the Postmaster General a question.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman cannot ask questions of which notice has not been given. When the Orders of the Day are called, certain subjects are allowed to be brought up as a matter of courtesy, but at this stage of the proceedings there is no possibility of allowing any questions unless they appear on the Notice paper.

Mr. WALLACE. The question I wished to ask was in regard to stamps.

Mr. SPEAKER. Because I was wrong in allowing the hon. member for York to

Mr. MULOCK.

ask a question irregularly, that does not permit other members to continue. I made the mistake, and I admit it, and I will endeavour not to repeat it.

Mr. WALLACE. I bow to your decision, Mr. Speaker.

REPORT.

Report of the Department of the Interior for the year 1897.—The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY.

Mr. McMULLEN. I should like to know when we may expect the report of the commissioners appointed to investigate the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). To-morrow.

JUBILEE STAMPS.

Mr. WALLACE. I beg to ask the Postmaster General whether the statement is correct that postage stamps of the Jubilee issue are not redeemable. The other issues can be redeemed in large quantities, and I desire to ascertain whether the same rule applies to the stamps of the Jubilee year, and whether they are also redeemable.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). There is no law requiring the department to redeem stamps. It is quite the exception to redeem them, Canada being practically the only country that does so. We have been redeeming the regular issue of stamps, but the Jubilee stamps when issued were declared to be issued finally and not redeemable.

CANNED GOODS FOR THE YUKON.

Mr. QUINN. I should like to call the attention of the Government to a clipping from the "National Provisioner," of New York and Chicago. It is in the following terms:—

A contract has been awarded at Ottawa to Libbey, McNeill & Libbey. The contract is a large one, and requires canned meats to be furnished for use both in the Klondike and northwest. This is the first time such a contract has been awarded to a Chicago concern, the Canadian Government having heretofore secured these goods in the Canadian market.

I have received intimation from an eminent packing firm in Canada, which tells me it has received an order for about 100,000 pounds of canned goods for the Yukon, bought by a large American company, and this is in competition with the people who have secured this contract from the Government. They also intimate that the contract, if awarded, was awarded with-