

that it is utterly impossible to turn up the items and find out what these votes are for.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** Of course the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) is quite within his rights. I assume that we have to read them over seriatim, only it takes up time. If the hon. gentleman puts his Votes and Proceedings before him he will be able to follow the items.

Mr. **SPROULE.** It is utterly impossible to turn to the Votes and Proceedings at the rate we are going.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** The resolutions are called in order and you will see each item in the Votes and Proceedings.

Mr. **SPEAKER.** If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) wishes delay at the Table there will be delay while he turns up the items, but of course we want to go on as quickly as possible.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** If you take the Orders of the Day, in one hand, and the Votes and Proceedings in the other, you will have no difficulty.

Post Office—Outside service..... \$3,636,657

Mr. **FOSTER.** Before that item passes in concurrence, I would like to ask the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) if he has yet brought down the return I have asked for. If it is not brought down I shall object to the passage of this item.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). What return is that?

Mr. **FOSTER.** The return I asked for a dozen times.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** About Mr. King?

Mr. **FOSTER.** Yes.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** I explained to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) the last time he mentioned the matter that I could not comply with the order of the House at present, because the papers in question had been mislaid. I thought perhaps the Deputy Postmaster General might know where they were. He has been away six weeks at Washington. He has returned, but I do not understand that he has been able to lay his hands upon them.

Mr. **FOSTER.** I suggest that we allow this item to stand over, for the present, and go on with the others. It is an odd way that after a return is asked for, at the beginning of the session, it cannot be brought down up to the last day of the session. There are certain rights that an Opposition does have, and that an independent member of the House has, and I certainly propose to ask that those rights shall be maintained. The Postmaster General can put his hand

on that return and get his officers to make it. If he cannot he can wait a little for his estimate.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) means by saying that I can put my hand on the return. I have stated the fact which is simply that the secretary informed me that he could not find the papers.

Mr. **WALLACE.** Parliament has ordered this return to be brought down, and Parliament is very much larger than the Postmaster General. The order of Parliament must be obeyed. If the Postmaster General had stated six weeks ago that he could not find these papers, and if that was the reason for not making this return and that his officers were making an effort to find the papers that would have been a proper thing for him to do, but he has made no such explanation. On the last day of the session he says that the papers cannot be found. That is no information for Parliament. The papers should have been brought down or the Postmaster General should have stated three months ago, after the order was made, that he had made diligent inquiry and that the papers could not be found. It is an extraordinary thing, when the Postmaster General has 300 clerks to look after these papers and keep them in order, that they cannot be found. The Postmaster General should have come to Parliament months ago with the statement that he has made to-day. Such a statement is of no use to this Parliament.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** I will send for the deputy and see if he has been more successful.

Mr. **FOSTER.** Well, then this item may stand in the meantime. I would not be so strenuous upon this point if it had not been that, when I was trying to get this information, the Postmaster General blocked me on a puerile technicality thus showing his intention not to give the information. I have remembered that, and consequently it has made me less charitable to the hon. gentleman in regard to this case.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) will accept the Postmaster General's unequivocal declaration that the papers cannot be found. If the papers are lost, with all due respect to the power of Parliament, he cannot bring them down.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL.** I think a question was put once before and my deputy gave me the substance of the papers, in answer to the question, so that the information is practically on record.

Mr. **McMULLEN.** I admit it is quite right, when orders of the House are given for returns, that the papers should be brought down, but this is not the first time that this thing has happened. I can draw