

advisable to have two offices in towns or villages. This was not the case in all cities.

MR. SINCLAIR said it was felt that they should have a provincial inspector in Prince Edward Island. In winter a great deal of difficulty was experienced in changing the mails back and forward on account of the route across the Straits, and they ought to have a provincial deputy, who would have full power to use his own judgment without referring to the Department for instructions with regard to every small matter. He had already spoken to the hon. the Postmaster-General on the subject. He thought that Prince Edward Island was the only Province without such an office. Their assistant deputy was a very efficient officer, and he hoped that this official would be appointed provincial deputy with an increased salary.

MR. McDONALD (Cape Breton) said that two post-offices had been established in the village of Little Glace Bay, and the distance between the two was only between half and three-quarters of a mile. This was done a year and a half ago.

MR. HUNTINGTON said that he did not remember the facts of this case. He agreed with the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Sinclair) that the officer in charge of post-office affairs in Prince Edward Island was an excellent officer, and his case would be considered. The matter referred to would receive consideration.

MR. McDONALD said that the late post-master at Little Glace Bay had been succeeded by a gentleman who did not appear to give entire satisfaction. Fault was found with him,—and hence the establishment of a second office.

MR. CAMPBELL said that Little Campbellton had been made a way office some time since, when the salary of the Postmaster was reduced from \$40 to \$20. It had been since restored to the position of a post-office, but the salary remained unchanged, though the receipts were, with one exception, the largest in the county. Forty per cent. of the collections of

MR. HUNTINGTON.

the office amounted to \$52 a year. At St. Ann's, however, two miles away, a Government settlement, the post-master collected \$80 and received \$87.

MR. HUNTINGTON said the post-master whom he appointed was recommended to him by persons in whom he had confidence. He did not think the people had suffered any inconvenience by the change.

MR. LANGEVIN did not think the convenience of the parish had been studied either with regard to the person whom they proposed or the site for the new office. There was another matter, however, to which he would take this opportunity of referring. The other day he asked for two returns which had now been placed before the House. One of these was with regard to the carrying of the mails from Quebec to Murray Bay by land, which service was performed up to the summer of 1877 for the sum of \$2,250. On the expiration of the contract, tenders were asked for, and a recommendation was made to the Postmaster-General by the Inspector of Post Offices in Quebec, in a letter dated 19th April, to the effect that the time allowed for the journey either way should be reduced. Nine tenders were received, the lowest being for \$2,547, the next for \$2,800 and the third by Mr. James Shaw for \$2,900. Now it appeared that the two lowest tenders were withdrawn, and that Mr. Shaw's was accepted. In his motion he (Mr. Langevin) asked for Orders in Council, showing the reason why this special tender was accepted, but he could not find any Order in Council.

MR. HUNTINGTON said the lowest tender was accepted, the two others having withdrawn.

MR. LANGEVIN thought that, according to law, when the lowest tenders were not accepted, an Order in Council was required before any other could be fixed upon.

MR. HUNTINGTON said that was the rule in the Public Works Department, but not in the Post Office Department.

MR. LANGEVIN said he was in a position to say why the lowest