

who were ordered to do this probably disagreeable work, but the Minister who gave the order.

I wish to call the attention of my hon. friend to the case of the postmaster at Carleton. On the 10th September, 1896, a letter was addressed to John Lefebvre, Esq., postmaster. The letter is as follows :—

A complaint has been made to this department, that during the recent Dominion election you had taken an offensive part as a partisan on behalf of the Conservative candidate in Bonaventure, canvassing during the campaign and on election day, conveying voters to the polls, and using offensive language against the Hon. Mr. Laurier and the Liberal candidate, Mr. Fauvel. It is further alleged, that even since the election, you have continued to use abusive language towards each of these gentlemen. In case you may desire to make any observations as to the correctness or otherwise of this complaint, opportunity is hereby given you, pending further action.

Mr. John Lefebvre could not take advantage of this invitation to answer the complaints because he had died and was buried before the election took place. Consequently, his offensive partisanship cannot have been very considerable. But the letter came into the hands of one Auguste Lefebvre, and he wrote to the Postmaster General stating that John Lefebvre was dead and buried, and that he was acting postmaster, and that if the complaint was intended to apply to him, he had never taken any active part in the election of the 23rd of June, he had never driven or canvassed, and he asked the Postmaster General to grant him an investigation. Well, nothing more was heard from the department until the by-election took place, and the hon. gentleman who so worthily represents the county of Bonaventure, pressed very considerably by his friends, insisted upon Auguste Lefebvre being dismissed. The friends of the hon. gentleman said to him: Time is pressing, tomorrow the vote will be taken, and unless you dismiss Lefebvre, the result may be disastrous. Without any notice to him, and although he had written on the 15th denying the charge and asking an investigation, the day before the election the Inspector came down, Mr. Bolduc, and bundled out the bags and everything else appertaining to the position of postmaster, and transferred them to the house of one Boudreault, a man who cannot read or write but who is a good Liberal. It is important that Boudreault should be, just before the vote is taken, appointed postmaster in the place of Lefebvre. The inspector, after going over the office and looking into the books, found everything in the best possible order. There was no complaint against Mr. Auguste Lefebvre, but the place was wanted for somebody else. Mr. Lefebvre is one of the best citizens in the locality, and a merchant, and like all country merchants

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

is not rich, but an honest, honourable man, and his dismissal without charge or investigation should be resented by every honest man in the Dominion.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to ask the Postmaster General as to these two men, Smith and Lindsay. I understood him to say that the only work they did outside of their regular work in the department, was to compile this valuable report that we have before us. This work, the Minister told us, occupied two weeks. He seems to be paying them pretty liberally for that work—at the rate of \$75 a week.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. They did a great deal more than the ordinary work of the department that they would be called to perform, for the reasons I have mentioned. In reply to my hon. friend from Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron), as to why Mr. Auguste Lefebvre was relieved from the position of postmaster, I will say that the notice to him happened to be addressed to Jean Lefebvre, but it was received by Auguste Lefebvre and accepted as intended for him. The reason for the mistake, as I am informed by the officers of the department, was that the name had not been changed in the postal guide since the transfer of the post office from the deceased Jean to Auguste. But, as I have said, no prejudice resulted, as the notice was accepted by August Lefebvre and replied to by him.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. In the way I have said?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. He replied denying the statement. The removal was made on a statement presented by the late Mr. Fauvel.

Mr. BERGERON. What was the charge?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Mr. Fauvel's letter was as follows :—

I beg to own receipt of your communication of the 17th past, inclosing a letter from the postmaster at Carleton, county of Bonaventure, re charges of his doings in the past election. It is nothing less than I expected from him, and I can only re-echo my recent charges, backed up by memo. from Mr. P. E. Perron, civil engineer, of Carleton, who is now in this city.

I, therefore, ask for the removal of the post office from Mr. Lefebvre, and recommend Mr. Joseph Boudreau for the position.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Is that a letter from Mr. Fauvel?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. This is a copy of the letter of Mr. Fauvel, the original of which is in the department. There was evidently an earlier letter, because he refers to it, and I do not find it here. There is a letter also of the 2nd November, 1896 :

Before leaving Ottawa, I sent you a declaration from Mr. P. A. Perron, of Carleton, giving the details for the removal of A. Lefebvre as postmaster at Carleton, P.Q. Since then I have had no acknowledgment of the receipt.