

notice the case of a postmistress in his own county, or what was his county, or what might be his future county. Why was Mrs. Nase dismissed from office and the position given to his friend Mrs. Waters, a schoolmate of his early days. The hon. gentleman is always surprised. When I met him in Queen's the other day, before he cleared out as he did from King's, he was surprised at everything. He expressed surprise when I endeavoured to cut adrift some of the statements made by him that were not directly to the point in issue. The hon. gentleman talks about officials interfering with elections; and yet his nominee, Mr. Morton, who holds the office of Judge of Probate, was trotted out to fight me in the constituency that the Minister had left, because it had left him. I shall have something more to say when we get further into this debate, and then I will be able to give the House, if necessary, sufficient evidence to show that the hon. gentleman's speech to-night is as untenable as his position has been during his previous history.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has asked me a question, and I suppose it is necessary to answer it. The question he asked was, why I had dismissed Mrs. Nase, who was postmistress in King's, and appointed a Mrs. Waters, who was an old schoolmate of my own. In the first place, I never was aware that Mrs. Nase was postmistress, and to my certain knowledge she never was. In the second place, Mrs. Waters was never a schoolmate of mine. I hope when the hon. gentleman proceeds with his further disclosures he will try to keep a little nearer to accuracy than he has done now.

Mr. DOMVILLE. When I make a further statement, I shall be able to prove that Mrs. Nase was postmistress and also that Mrs. Waters was a schoolmate of the hon. gentleman.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think the leader of the Government has now obtained a reason from the hon. member for King's, N.B. (Mr. Domville) why this debate should be adjourned, namely, that he may have an opportunity of looking up these important facts and reporting to the House at its next sitting.

The PRIME MINISTER. That, perhaps, is a good reason for adopting the motion to adjourn. But I must insist that next week—and I hope I shall have the support of hon. gentlemen opposite in this matter—the House shall sit at least until 12 o'clock. I do not want to quarrel so early in the session, and I shall therefore agree to an adjournment for this week, at all events.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 31st August, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

LIBERATION OF CONVICT HAYES.

Mr. DAVIN (for Mr. Bergeron) asked :

Is it true that Walter C. Hayes, a convict who was undergoing a sentence of seven years in the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, has been liberated by order of the Department of Justice? If so, when, and for what reason?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Yes, an order was sent on the 21st instant to the warden of the penitentiary to release Hayes. The prisoner had by good conduct earned all possible remission (448 days) allowed under the prison rules upon a seven years' sentence and had actually served five years, five months and three days, and his sentence would have by lapse of time expired on the 6th November next, and it having been represented to the Minister of Justice and established by statutory declaration that the convict's mother was on her death bed, and from the best advice of physicians could not live more than one or two weeks; that she was expressing great anxiety to see her son before her death, and that it would be an act of humanity if the sentence could be commuted or the prisoner released in order that he might see his mother before her death, and it being further represented to the Minister that Hayes would go directly upon his release to Chicago where his mother was, the Minister thought fit in recognition of the prisoner's good conduct during his imprisonment to recommend the remission of the two months and sixteen days remaining of the sentence.

THE CHICAGO DRAINAGE CANAL.

Mr. WALLACE (for Mr. Maclean) asked :

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the prospective injury to Canadian shipping and other interests by the construction of the Chicago Drainage Canal? What steps does the Government intend taking for the protection of Canadian interests in this matter?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). Yes. The late Government appointed Mr. O'Hanly, civil engineer, to report on the effect of the Chicago Drainage Canal on the levels of the great lakes. His report has been printed, and will at once be distributed. The whole subject will receive from the Government the consideration its importance demands.

MILITIA CAMPS.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

Have arrangements been definitely concluded for the holding of the militia camps this year,