

perfected by the time the House meets again.

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS**. I may say that my intention is to go slowly. As I explained to the House, it is proposed to supply these buildings with a suitable fire system, and to change the mixed system of gas and electric light which we have at present. Since the discussion took place here, I may say, that I have met Mr. Coates, the president of the Gas Company, who said that he would be glad to meet me later on.

Mr. **MACLEAN**. I hope the Minister of Public Works will consider this matter carefully, and go in for the state having its own system of electric lighting. In Toronto we have had some experience of gas, electric light and power companies, which are all monopolies entrenched there, and the citizens cannot get their rights from them. We have heard a good deal about the vested rights of these companies. While they are entitled to consideration, the public are also entitled to consideration. The whole tendency of the day is to wipe out these monopolies, and to have such things municipalized, or managed by the state or the city. I trust that the Minister will not have too many negotiations with the monopolies which are entrenched here, but will go in for a state system of lighting. If there must be a combination, let him form a combination with the city of Ottawa, and let the state and the city together provide themselves with the cheapest light supply they can get.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 1 p.m.

## Second Sitting.

MONDAY, 28th June, 1897.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

## SUPPLY—CONCURRENCE.

House resumed consideration of resolutions reported from Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. **FOSTER**. When this item was under consideration this morning I objected to it on the ground that certain returns ordered by the House had not been brought down. To that objection the Minister stated that he had given orders to have the papers assembled, and that they had been mislaid. He has kindly sent to me a letter from his deputy, in which the deputy says that his impression is that the papers in the Marsh

Mr. **FOSTER**.

Hill case were given out in the ordinary way to a clerk to be copied before the deputy went to Washington, but that they cannot now be found; that he is having a search made for them, and that the probability is that they have got mixed with other papers. On that ground I cannot see that I have a right to block the passage of the Minister's estimate; but I take occasion to say that these papers are more important in the sense in which I am asking for them than probably the majority of the members know, and if they are not found, the matter will, of course, be spoken of later. It will be a case in which papers involving very important issues have in some way or other disappeared from view. They are not papers which have not been spoken about, because for more than a year now I have been trying to get at the information which I suppose is contained in them. I sincerely hope that the Postmaster General will not intermit any diligence to have these papers found or to answer the order of the House.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). The papers in question, so far as I remember, are very limited in number. They consist, I presume, of the appointment of Mr. King as postmaster at Marsh Hill, and his resignation. I think, speaking from memory, that his resignation was sent by telegram, and if it is to that the hon. gentleman attaches any importance, the probability is that a record of that can be obtained in the telegraph office through which it was sent; so that I do not think that ultimately there can be any prejudice in regard to the matter.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I hope my hon. friend does not suppose that I should hunt the telegraph office.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. No, but I just wished to intimate to the hon. gentleman that even if the papers have been mislaid, secondary evidence can be obtained of their contents, in all probability.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Then, I shall hope to get that.

Resolution agreed to.

Kentville public building.....	\$ 5,000
Liverpool public building.....	5,000
Halifax drill hall (revote).....	12,000

Mr. **McMULLEN**. I was not in the House when the votes for the construction of post offices were under consideration. I am anxious to be entirely in accord with the Government, but at the same time I cannot lose sight of the fact that when in Opposition I advocated most strongly the principle laid down in 1890, with which principle I consider the item before us is at variance. I have frequently condemned hon. gentlemen opposite for not carrying out when in power that principle which they themselves had accepted, but their failure in this respect does not justify the present Government in pursuing a similar