

will endorse the statement I have made with respect to his political leanings. I want to know whether politics had anything to do with the cancellation of his contract. We have heard it stated time and again in this House that no discharges were made in consequence of political leanings, but, from what I know of this transaction, I believe the cancellation was made simply because Mr. Burns was a Reformer, and not because he was unable to perform the services required of him. Now, if this course is to be pursued, it is better for the Government to announce in the *Canada Gazette*, or through the public press of the country, that it is unnecessary for any Reformer to apply for any service under the control of the Government. That would relieve the Reformers of the trouble and annoyance of tendering for a service of this kind and having their contracts cancelled. I am confident the Postmaster-General will be able to state if my view of this matter is a correct one or not.

MR. O'CONNOR: It is quite evident the hon. gentleman had prepared a speech for the occasion, in order the better to make out a grievance. I am quite unable at present to satisfy the hon. gentleman's demand. I cannot say at present why it is the contract was not carried out. All I can now say is that the matter is under enquiry by the Inspector of the district, and, until his report is made, I am not able to give any answer whatever. In the meantime, I must oppose the motion of the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Oliver).

MR. MACKENZIE: Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that he refuses to produce a copy of these papers?

MR. O'CONNOR: I mean to say that, until the Inspector, who is now enquiring into the matter, and has all the papers before him, reports, it is impossible for me to answer the motion.

MR. MACKENZIE: The Inspector's report cannot alter the papers; he may deliver an opinion on the subject, and I can only say that, if the Government refuses to give copies of these papers, they will show that they are not able to defend their action in this matter. This is the first time in the history of this House that such papers have been refused.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I understand the hon. the Postmaster-General to say that the correspondence is incomplete, and he proposes to have it completed before it is brought down. I do not see any difficulty in allowing the motion to pass, with the understanding that so soon as the correspondence is completed it shall be brought down.

MR. ROSS (West Middlesex) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and Debate adjourned.

#### RAILWAY STATIONS IN LEVIS, BELLE-CHASSE AND MONTMAGNY.

##### MOTION FOR RETURN WITHDRAWN.

MR. LANDRY, on the Notice of Motion being called for an Order of the House for copies of all correspondence, petitions and other documents in relation to the construction or the repairing, as the case may be, of the railway stations at Etchemin and St. Jean Chrysostom, in the county of Lévis, of St. Michel, in the county of Bellechasse, and of St. François, St. Pierre, St. Thomas and Cap St. Ignace, in the county of Montmagny, said: The question I put to the Government this afternoon, and the answer thereto, cover part of the information I desired to obtain by the present motion. But the answer covered only the cases of St. François, St. Pierre, Cap St. Ignace, and St. Thomas. If the hon. the Minister of Railways would answer the other part of my former question, this motion could be allowed to drop.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I think I have some slight reason to complain of my hon. friend. He put a question on the Notice Paper, and my answer was that I would obtain the information and give it to him at an early date. I did obtain that information, but in the meantime he extended his question, and embraced several other things in it, of which he had given me no previous intimation. But I shall be glad to get the additional information for the hon. gentleman.

MR. LANDRY: The question as originally put embraced but four localities, but with the permission of the House I extended it the same day to other railway stations.

Motion, with leave of the House, withdrawn.