quite well consulting the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) and having his confirmation of the facts as narrated by the postmistress. I have never heard of any memorial protesting against the change. If any has reached the department, it has never come to my notice. I will make inquiries and tell the hon. gentleman to-morrow if such a memorial has reached the department.

Mr. GILLIES. As the matter of dismissals is up, and as I have an extraordinary case in my county relating to the Post Office Department, and as I failed at the proper time to get the information that I sought, I feel compelled to try if possible to get from the Postmaster General the information that at that time he failed to furnish me. I refer to the dismissal of Roderick Ferguson, late postmater of Lower L'Ardoise. I will be obliged if the Postmaster General will give me information with respect to that case. I certainly fail to understand it. It would be an injustice to the hon. gentleman (Mr Mulock) for me to fail to bring the case to his notice, because there is a deep seated conviction throughout my constituency that the hon. gentleman must have acted on information the truth of which he had not sifted to the bottom; because, if he had, I am disposed to do him the justice to say, he would not have dismissed this man. This is a large section in my county. Now, on the 21st February last, I put the following question on the Order paper :—

1. Who is the postmaster at Lower L'Ardoise, county of Richmond, at the present time ?
2. When was the present incumbent appointed ?
3. Who was his predecessor in office ?
4. Why and when was he removed ?
5. At whose request ?
6. Were any complaints in writing against the late postmaster filed with the Government or the Post Office Department ?
7. What was the nature of these complaints, and by whom were they furnished ?
8. Was an investigation afforded the late postmaster before removing him from office ? If so, by whom was the inquiry held ?

These are perfectly legitimate questions, and they were properly put. They were called on several occasions, but they were not answered until the 7th March, being asked to stand for one reason or another. On the 7th March the Postmaster General gave me the following reply :—

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr Mulock.) The present postmaster, Daniel C. Mathieson, was appointed on the 30th September, 1897. His predecessor in office was Roderick Ferguson. Certain complaints having been made against him, they were communicated to him in order to afford him an opportunity of replying thereto, which he did, pleading guilty to all of said complaints excepting one—an immaterial one—it was not thought necessary to hold an inquiry.

But the Postmaster General had not any reply to my question if the complaints were furnished or forwarded to his department, and if so, by whom, and what was their nature. He assumes at once they were all admitted, except an immaterial one—he does not say what is was or what any of the complaints were. Then I gave notice at once in the regular way, of the following motion :—

Order of the House for copies of all correspondence, inspectors' reports and all documents respecting the dismissal of Roderick Ferguson, late postmaster at Lower L'Ardoise, Richmond County, and the removal of the post office to the store of Joseph Mathieson, late M.P.P., for the said county of Richmond ; also, copies of all letters recommending Daniel K. Matheson as successor to Mr. Ferguson ; also, copy of the writ of summons issued out of the Supreme Court of the province of Nova Scotia against the said Daniel K. Matheson for corrupt practices in the general local election of the year 1894 ; also, copy of the judgment of Mr. Justice Henry, dated 3rd July, 1895, condemning the said Daniel K. Matheson, the present postmaster at Lower L'Ardoise, in a penalty of $400 and costs for corrupt acts committed by him in said election, and of which he was found guilty by the judgment of the said Mr. Justice Henry, one of the Supreme Court judges for the province of Nova Scotia.

That notice of motion was given on the 17th March, and was called, from time to time, but the Postmaster General asked that it should be allowed to stand.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No.

Mr. GILLIES. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. He will find that in "Hansard."

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I never saw it before.

Mr. GILLIES. It was called from time to time until the 9th of May, when I dropped it, because I found it was not the intention to pass it ; and if it remained on the Order paper I would not be allowed to discuss it.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I never asked that it be allowed to stand.

Mr. GILLIES. The Postmaster General is mistaken. It stood at his request. What I say is absolutely correct.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what are the facts ? Mr. Ferguson, the late postmaster, was one of the most respectable men in my county. He held the position of postmaster from the time it became vacant in 1886 until he was dismissed last September. He conducts a large mercantile business in the county where he resides, and he is municipal councillor for that district, one of the most intelligent men in that county. He was dismissed on the 30th of September last, for what reason I do not know. The Postmaster General did not answer my inquiry, therefore I am at a loss to know why he was dismissed. On the 20th of September, Mr. Daniel K. Matheson was put in his place. This young man, in 1894, was proceeded against in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia for corrupt practices in the election that was held in March of that year. The cases of corruption that