

ensor of what will or will not go through the mails.

When I decided, under the Parcel Post Act, that intoxicating liquors should not be allowed transmission through the post offices, I received many congratulations, but some dealers told me I was interfering with the liberty of commerce. To-day I stop dirt and filth from being disseminated in Canadian homes. Shall I be told that the principle of alleged free speech should in this case supersede the law of the land?

As I have no doubt that you will agree with me on the above, let us come now to the question as to whether I have used my powers at a fair and legitimate moment.

There are two papers called *The Menace*. One is sent to Canada from Aurora, Missouri, and it requested the privileges of the mails for a Canadian edition to be published at Aurora, Ontario. This application was made in the usual course to my deputy minister, Doctor Coulter, who requested that the publication should be submitted to him, as is usual in such cases. He came to the conclusion, without the least hesitation, that this paper published immoral, indecent and scurrilous things and he refused it the privileges of the mails. The *Menace* came out with flaming head-lines denouncing this and declaring—Doctor Coulter is a Protestant—that his action has been dictated to him by the 'hierarchy' and 'the Pope of Rome.' The matter was then brought to my attention. I looked through the paper and came to the conclusion that Doctor Coulter's action was right and proper, and I upheld it.

The question was put in Parliament as to the reasons for the action taken. I answered the question on the 2nd April by putting on 'Hansard' a memorandum prepared by Dr. Coulter, a copy of which I beg to enclose for your perusal. The newspaper men being anxious to see the text of this memorandum, I supplied them with as many copies as they required. I took care not to exclude the quotations made by the deputy minister to justify his action. Most of the newspapers on both sides of politics published the memorandum but every one of them, if I mistake not, omitted the quotations, and they informed me that they did so out of respect for their readers.

Members of Parliament, after reading those quotations in 'Hansard,' suggested that it would be more proper to have them expunged. This is the kind of thing I am now told should be distributed in the Canadian homes in the name of free speech. Some of the communications which I have received in that respect are accompanied by several kinds of threats. My answer is that I will obey the law and fulfil my duty whatever the consequences may be.

So much for the American *Menace*.

As to the Canadian *Menace*, the proprietor was told that the same rule would apply. The publishers came out with a leading article in large type acknowledging that we were right and undertaking not to publish this kind of obscene and immoral literature in future. They were told that the ban would be lifted, but, if they did not keep their promise, the privileges of the mails would be withdrawn from them.

Unfortunately, the question of religion and race has again been raised here as is so often done in our country by people who want to appeal to prejudices for their own selfish purposes, but there is no question of race and religion in

this matter. There are several papers enjoying the privileges of the mails which constantly indulge in religious and controversial recriminations, both from a Catholic and Protestant point of view. There are others which are at the same time anti-Catholic and anti-Protestant, and which pretend that Catholics and Protestants are all imposters. I have one of these papers before me at this moment and amongst other things I find the following:

'Of all manner of shameless imposters are the "Christian" priests and preachers who profess Christ and follow Paul, knowing as they must, unless they are ignorant of history, for it is a historical record, that Paul was repudiated by the early Christians.'

I do believe that Protestantism and Catholicism will survive this.

If I were to forget that I am Postmaster General for all Canadians, Protestant and Catholic alike, and if I were so bigoted as to think of excluding Protestant newspapers from the mails, there are others than the *Menace* which would be much more worthy of my attention in this respect, but the law does not say that a newspaper will be excluded because it is strongly Catholic or strongly Protestant, and consequently, I have no right to bar any of them from the mails for that reason. The law and regulations do say, however, that no newspaper, Protestant or Catholic, will be obscene, immoral or scurrilous, and it does not seem to me possible that you and I, as Christian gentlemen, should disagree in a matter like this.

Hoping that the above will satisfy you that the course taken by this department was the only proper one under the circumstances, I remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,
(Sgd) Louis P. Pelletier.

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155 Rozel Street,
Montreal.

2. The facts as to the Canadian *Menace* are fully given in the letter just read.

THE LIGHTSHIP HALIFAX.

* Mr. LEMIEUX:

1. Where was the steam lightship Halifax 19 built?
2. Have any tenders been called for?
3. Were any Canadian firms asked to tender?
4. How many tenders were received, from whom, and what was the amount in each case?

Mr. HAZEN:

1. In the yards of Bow, McLachlan & Co., Ltd., Paisley, Scotland.
2. Yes.
3. Tenders were publicly invited in the Canadian newspapers.
4. Four tenders were received as follows: Bow, McLachlan & Co., Ltd., Paisley, \$127,384.82; Ferguson Bros., Port Glasgow, \$149,649.79; Polson Iron Works, Toronto, Ont., \$159,750; Hawthorne & Co., Ltd., Leith, \$131,399.99.