

side Mr. Martin, were lower than that of Mr. Finkle for this service, and if there was any change contemplated in the route, or with reference to the contract, the Government might have asked for new tenders, or more proper still, Mr. Martin should have had a fair show to do the work as he had made the arrangements to do so. I hope that when the papers come down they will show that things are not so bad as I anticipate they are. In any event, the Postmaster General should see that Mr. Martin, who is in ordinary circumstances, should not suffer loss by reason of the action of the department. He should not be put to the inconvenience and expense of selling traps which he had for other purposes, buying a team of horses, and making arrangements to carry out his contract with the Government. I trust that the Postmaster General will at least indemnify him for that.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). There is no objection whatever to the order of the House being carried for the production of the papers in question. I cannot speak with any knowledge of the facts, as I know nothing whatever in regard to the matter, but I am perfectly certain that my hon. friend (Mr. Wilson) will be satisfied when the papers are produced, that everything was conducted strictly in the public interest. It sometimes does happen that after tenders have been invited, the community awakened to the fact that perhaps a more convenient service would be better, and in such cases these representations have to be considered. It may be that this is one of the cases in point. If, however, the notice given to the successful tenderer was such as to have justified him in going to the expense to carry out his contract, and if the public interest afterwards called for the change of service, it would be very reasonable indeed that this official should receive some compensation for the expense he might be put to.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Hear, hear.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I will investigate the matter thoroughly, and I am sure I will do what my hon. friend (Mr. Wilson) would under similar circumstances do himself.

Mr. **WILSON**. Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to.

BEAMSVILLE POST OFFICE—MR. FAIRBROTHER.

Mr. **MCCLEARY** moved for :

Copies of all letters and correspondence between the Government, or any members thereof, referring in any way to the dismissal of Mr. W. D. Fairbrother as postmaster at Beamsville, with a copy of the charges and by whom such were made.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on the motion to adjourn the House a few days ago I endeavoured to say something in connection with this matter, but you very properly called my attention to the fact, that I had this resolution on the Order paper, and so I was obliged to postpone my remarks until this hour. It will be hardly necessary for me to go over the ground I did a few days ago, in connection with this Beamsville postmaster who has been dismissed from his position. Suffice it to say, that I read to the House the charges that were made against Mr. Fairbrother, and which were given by the Postmaster General as the reasons why that gentleman has been dismissed from the office. I quite agree with the statement, that if any of those charges were true, Mr. Fairbrother was not entitled to continue in his position as postmaster at Beamsville. My greatest objection to the whole procedure is, that the hon. Postmaster General refused to give Mr. Fairbrother an investigation into the truth or falsity of these charges. The House will remember, Sir, these charges were of such a character that they would deprive Mr. Fairbrother of his honour, and his status as an honourable business man in the community. He was, therefore, entitled to receive at the hands of the Postmaster General, far more generous consideration than he did. The first intimation that Mr. Fairbrother had in reference to this matter, was a letter that he received from the post office inspector in the following words:—

I beg to inform you that I have this day received from Ottawa intimation of your dismissal from the postmastership at Beamsville. You will be notified later on as to the date on which the transfer will take place.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) **R. N. BARKER.**

Mr. Fairbrother immediately wrote to Mr. Barker asking him for an explanation, and Mr. Barker in reply, said :

I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, but I am unable to give you the information that you ask for. Your successor in office is Mr. Alexander Allan.

Not having received the information from the post office inspector, Mr. Fairbrother immediately wrote to the Postmaster General and asked him for an explanation as to why he had been dismissed. The answer that he got from the department is as follows:—

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 23rd instant, protesting against your dismissal from the postmastership at Beamsville.

Your obedient servant,
THE SECRETARY.

That is the reply that Mr. Fairbrother got from the department when he pleaded for an investigation or at least for a statement of the reasons why he was dismissed. Now, the hon. the Premier declared before this