

Sir. But hon. gentlemen opposite have bought off men who supported them, to the mutual pleasure of the man who was salaried and to their own comfort as well; to the pleasure of the man who was salaried because otherwise he would have had to take his seat in the House, and, as a true gentleman and a man of honour, to have found fault with the Government on a line consistent with the pledge he made in this House years ago. But where is the Postmaster General? Where is he? Sadly the echo answers: Where is he? An important member of a Government committing the very sin and crime that he denounced when he was on this side of the House and introduced his Bill. But all the time the Postmaster General had an eye to the windward of the Patrons of this country. Everything of this kind was catering to the Patrons. But other men catered. Sir Richard Cartwright, the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, as I have an item here to show, wrote a letter to the Patrons. He loved them—so far as love is possible in his somewhat austere composition, and he poured it out right royally. He loved them most of all when he was up west in a certain constituency when he declared:

As for the Patrons of Industry, their platform and that of the Liberal party were identical as regards Dominion issues; and he counselled that no division of the vote that opposed great abuses and wrongs, should be permitted. Do not allow divisions to creep in and imperil the great cause of an aggrieved people by dividing the vote that should be massed against the common enemy.

And the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) loved the Patrons, and declared:

All its principles were identical with those of the Liberal party, and for every one of them Mr. McMullen had stood a staunch supporter and defender during all of his parliamentary career.

My hon. friend was giving a helping hand to the hon. member for North Wellington:

No good reason could be given for withdrawing from him the support of a single Patron elector in North Wellington, and he desired to raise a voice of warning against permitting a division of that portion of the electorate which stood opposed to existing abuses.

Sir Richard Cartwright is said to have spoken—at least he is reported in the "Globe" of January 29th, 1895—at Kingston, and amongst other things he said:

He desired, above all things, that there should be no quarrel with those who had joined the Patrons of Industry. Their platforms were the same; their cause could only be made doubtful by division. That was what the Conservatives were praying for.

And a Mr. Schell, called upon after the hon. gentleman had ceased speaking, also thought that:

It would be a misfortune if the Liberals and Patrons should be divided. Their platforms were identical, and their objects the same. He be-

Mr. FOSTER.

lieved the majority of the Patrons of South Oxford would be willing, as he was himself, to stand by the nominee of the Liberal Convention.

Now, I think that shows pretty well a close degree of consanguinity, so far as political relationship can go. What is the platform of the Patrons? In 1895, January 23rd, the Grand Board of Patrons of Industry issued a manifesto outlining the demands made by the Patrons in connection with Dominion affairs. I am not going to read it all, but I will read some of it, for it is very instructive:

No member of the House of Commons shall receive a free pass from any railroad or steamship company; any member accepting such a free pass to be disqualified for membership in the House of Commons or for any position in the gift of the Government for a space of five years. The present Postmaster General was at one with them on that.

The Government House at Ottawa shall be abolished.

He did not quite go so far as the abolition of Government House, but he wanted to abolish a very considerable portion of the salary of the incumbent of the Government House, which would probably have had the very same effect.

The system of superannuation, gratuities and pensions, except for military service, should be abolished.

There is a Bill for its abolition, but, strange to say, it is a Bill that does not abolish superannuation.

The Mounted Police of the North-west Territories should be abolished, except for unorganized districts.

We have no intimation that the Government is preparing that programme.

The Military College at Kingston shall be abolished, and the expenditure on the militia force of the Dominion in times of peace shall be limited to \$300,000.

That, I believe, is not contemplated by my hon. friend, at least, it did not appear in the Queen's Speech.

The granting of subsidies and bonuses to railroad and steamship companies and other corporations shall be abolished.

I have not heard that that is in contemplation. The Crow's Nest Pass business is, I believe, not quite settled, a grave struggle is taking place. A very prominent member of that Government, when in the North-west, promised everybody that the Government would take hold and build it.

Mr. DOMVILLE. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Oh, it was my hon. friend who promised it, with the significant remark—

Mr. DOMVILLE. Don't make any charges.