

gether from the service, and appoint some one else instead. It is quite evident that the people of the Island, for what reason I do not know, would scarcely be satisfied with anyone; and I can only come to this conclusion: that it would be much better to send a stranger there, although the patronage which is supposed to belong to those who live in the immediate locality would thereby be taken from them, though I do not believe in all cases that it is at all advisable, in the interests of the revenue, that in every case the parties living in the immediate locality should be consulted as to the person who should be appointed to the position of revenue officer—from the fact that if a collector of Customs or a preventive officer, or any person having to do with the revenue, particularly the Customs revenue, and with smuggling and violation of the law, has many friends in the locality, he is too apt to neglect his duty and befriend them at the expense, if not of the revenue, at least of the service and the law.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). It seems that the daylight protectionists are nocturnal free traders.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman is not original. I know he is philosophical; but I protest most solemnly against his stealing the utterances of my hon. friend who sits behind him. I have a distinct recollection of the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor) giving utterance to precisely the same language a few years ago, and I have no doubt he was quite honest in doing so, however wrong the sentiment may be in principle. I do not know anything of the action of the officers to whom the hon. gentleman has referred. What course Mr. Gott or Mr. King took in the election was unknown to me. I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. King but once in my life. In fact, if asked what his politics were, I could not have answered; but I suppose Mr. Gott would have recorded his vote, if at all, in the Conservative interest. I do not know whether he did that or not, or whether he took any active part in the election; but if he did so, he did nothing more than many other Customs officials throughout this Dominion, who worked in the interest of the party with which the hon. gentleman is connected.

Mr. McMULLEN. No, no.

Mr. BOWELL. Of course I could not expect the hon. member for North Wellington to believe what I say.

Mr. McMULLEN. We do not expect any other statement from you, at any rate.

Mr. BOWELL. There is a species of insolence on the part of the hon. gentleman, which it would be unparliamentary to properly refer to. I reiterate the statement I made, that if the officers in the south riding of Essex worked against the hon. gentleman, I was not aware of it. If they did they did no more than many others who worked in favour of the party my hon. friend supports. The hon. member from Wellington may deny that if he pleases.

Mr. McMULLEN. Give us the names.

Mr. BOWELL. I do not propose to stand here and be catechised by the hon. gentleman. I make the statement, and if the hon. gentleman can controvert it, let him do so. But let him ask any hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island, whether officials connected with the Customs there did not

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work, and work energetically against the Conservative party in that Island.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I fail to know it.

Mr. BOWELL. Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say he knows the action of every officer on the Island, whether a preventive officer or other officer, or whether in Charlottetown or elsewhere?

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman appealed to members from Prince Edward Island, and I answer him by saying that my knowledge of the Customs officials there is not limited, and I know none in Prince Edward Island who supported the Opposition candidates.

Mr. YEO. I also come from Prince Edward Island, and I know none.

Mr. BOWELL. I have heard of a case in which a man was accused of stealing a horse, and only one man swore to the fact, when the accused told the judge very seriously that he could bring a dozen men who would swear that they did not know it, and did not see him stealing the horse. I think my hon. friends are exactly in the same position. When I receive complaints demanding the dismissal of an official because he worked for his own party, I positively refuse to comply on the ground that the law gives Customs officials the right to vote and work in the interests of their party, and I lay down the principle that it would be dangerous to adopt the view which the hon. member for South Essex takes, when he says that to the victors belong the spoils. Of course, I believe that in all cases when there is a vacancy, that vacancy should be filled by the party in power from its own ranks; but I presume what the hon. gentleman means to imply is that we should adopt the principle which obtains in the United States, and which did obtain before Confederation in Prince Edward Island, namely, that upon the accession to power of a new Government, every officer opposed to it should be dismissed from his position and another appointed.

Mr. ALLAN. That is what it will come to.

Mr. BOWELL. Why should it come to that?

Mr. ALLAN. By the course the Government have taken.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman did not, during the whole of his speech, cite an instance of an officer who had opposed the Government having been dismissed for that reason. Neither did he give any instance in which a political opponent of the Government had been removed from office and a supporter of the Government put in his place.

Mr. McMULLEN. I will give you one in a few minutes.

Mr. BOWELL. I have no doubt the hon. gentleman wants to obtain a pretext—thinking that the time is not far distant when his party will be in power—which will justify his party in carrying out the principle he advocates. I know nothing of the information the hon. member for Wellington may give the House, but I venture to make this assertion: that he will furnish no instance in connection with the Customs Department of an officer having been removed for political reasons, since I have had control of it, at any rate. I challenge him to furnish any such instance. He may instance cases of which I know nothing, and I am confident that in any cases he will mention there are other reasons than those of a political character