

the mouth of the hon. member for Lambton to make this complaint against the Hon. Minister of Public Works.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I doubt whether any particular service will be done in the passage of the estimates by bringing up a transaction five years old. But I take occasion to say that Dr. Strange was dismissed for the grossest possible violation of his duty, he being a public officer in the pay of the Government and deliberately electioneering in Kingston.

MR. KIRKPATRICK. No.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Yes; in favor of the present Premier and against the other candidate, and he was warned repeatedly that if he, as a Government officer, so interfered in elections, he would be dismissed. He was most righteously dismissed.

MR. MILLS. The hon. Minister of Public Works says he was not at all influenced in his conduct towards Mr. Kingsford by any political considerations, but (*sic**) on account of complaints made of his conduct in the discharge of his duties as an engineer. Well, I think it is removed, and I think Mr. Kingsford is under the impression that the hon. gentleman was influenced by certain charges made against Mr. Kingsford in connection with some things that happened at Rimouski. I may say also that the person who opposed me at the last election accused Mr. Kingsford of interfering in the political contest in Bothwell. For that accusation there was not the shadow of foundation. I never discussed politics with Mr. Kingsford for ten minutes in my life, and only then to learn that his sympathies were not with us, but with hon. gentlemen opposite. But I never supposed for a moment, that Mr. Kingsford was in the smallest degree influenced politically in the discharge of his duties as an engineer. The whole accusation made against him in my constituency was that, not long before the election, he was passing through Morrisburg, and telegraphed to the Custom house officer, who is himself not a politician asking him to see him while the train was passing. I do not think he was off the train for five minutes, and I do not think any person saw him but Mr. Duff, the Custom house officer.

MR. LANGEVIN. Any accusation which may have been made against Mr. Kingsford for anything he may have said or done previous to our coming into office was not noticed by me. We never reproached him or any other officer for taking part in any election before we came into office; but if these officers while we are in office, would go and canvass against the Government, that would be taken notice of.

MR. MILLS. Or for them.

MR. LANGEVIN. I have no doubt that would be a much more venial offence, but one unlikely to occur.

I have said that the first intimation of any weight which I received that my position was threatened, was the receipt of a letter from †Sir H. Langevin to Sir Charles Tupper, of which I have made mention in my published letter. This letter enclosed an application from Mr. George F. Austin, and was consequently made official, as the recommendation which would justify Mr. Austin's employment.

Mr. Austin's letter is one tissue of misrepresentations. How it could have been written by him it is difficult to understand. Mr. Austin's posi-

* The "but" is evidently a misprint for "nor." The argument of Sir H. Langevin was that although Mr. Kingsford's duties had been efficiently performed, there was no longer any call for his services.

† I describe the Ministers, of whom I speak by their present rank, although at the period of which I write they had not received the distinctions they now hold.