

felt it my duty, as one of the members on this side, to remind the right hon. gentleman that his own party had pursued the course which he so emphatically condemns. If the right hon. gentleman is sincere in his objection to that policy, I hope before this Parliament closes he will introduce on behalf of the Government an Act disfranchising the Dominion officials, not only in Halifax, but all over the Dominion. I believe these men should be disfranchised and taken from the control or dictation of either political party. They may be the servants of the hon. gentleman and his friends to-night, but the day may come, sooner than the hon. gentleman expects (in one, two or three years), when these men may be the servants of the present Opposition; and do you suppose these men would desire to be—if our people were so disposed, which I know they would not be—insulted and outraged by being ordered to vote according as the political parties of the day changed. I lay it down as a principle, although I am in a minority in this House, that the civil servants of the country, who are as much my servants as they are of the right hon. gentleman's, because they are paid out of the money of the country, to serve the public interests of the country, should be free from all control on either side, and feel they are in an independent position. If nothing came out of the discussion to-night, I rejoice at having the opportunity of laying down a principle which we have contended for, in the Province of Nova Scotia, for a long time. Not only there did we disfranchise the Dominion officials, but the local officials as well. They cannot vote in a local election, and are glad to be in the position in which the Act has placed them. I, therefore, hope that during this Parliament some action may be taken which will place the civil servants in an independent position.

Mr. TUPPER. I think the House will not be anxious to hear a too lengthy statement from every hon. gentleman as to the events which he may think interesting to him, and which occurred in the excitement of the last election; but as the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Jones) has occupied considerable time this Session telling us the gossip of his committee rooms during the late election, and has felt it necessary to apologise to this House for his presence here or to explain why he appears with so few followers, it is necessary I should answer him on certain statements he has made with reference to the county of Pictou. Many of the hon. gentleman's assertions made a few nights ago have been taken issue with by the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Kenny), who, I think, taught the senior member a lesson, because that hon. gentleman in his reply deemed it necessary to avoid any allusion to the fanciful \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000 subsidies dangled before the people of Nova Scotia, and retired from the position which he took the other night a few minutes before six, when he thought that by speaking up to six no one would have the opportunity of contradicting his assertion. The hon. gentleman has alluded to the county of Pictou and if his allusions in reference to his own county had no more foundation than those, I do not see much use in the junior member for Halifax taking the trouble and time to refute them. He said the same influences were at work in the county where my colleague and myself were returned by 600 of a majority. He charges the Government with having coerced the employés of the Intercolonial Railway, and the Civil Service. I challenge every statement made by the hon. gentleman, and what is more, I say that candidates whom we met in a fair fight and defeated fairly in Pictou, had the manliness and honor to make a declaration entirely inconsistent with the declaration of the hon. member for Halifax. Both Mr. McLeod, who opposed us, and Mr. Bell, stood up like men and admitted that they were beaten fairly; they said they had done their best to win but could not. Everyone knows that the senior member for

Halifax is ashamed of the part he took in that contest. From the day he came here up to the present, he has never ventured to tell the House that he ran in the last election as the recognised leader of the secession party. I am glad the hon. gentleman has some sense of what is right and decent in the House of Commons, and is thoroughly ashamed of the policy that the Province almost from one end to the other repudiated with scorn. Why do hon. gentlemen opposite laugh? They were denounced as well as we. It was a fight of Nova Scotians against Canadians, which the ex-Minister of the Crown in Canada placed before the electors of Nova Scotia. These parish political cries, these sectional cries were pleaded for all they were worth. He endeavored to explain that Nova Scotia, forsooth, was building all the railways in the west, that she was being bled for the Canadians who were draining the resources of that Province.

Mr. JONES. That is true.

Mr. TUPPER. The hon. gentleman says that is true, and yet hon. gentlemen opposite cheered him when he endeavored to make capital at our expense by abusing them as well as the party in power. The hon. gentleman does not know why he is beaten; rather, he pretends not to know. He is too far-seeing not to be able to understand the cause that moved the people at the election. He pretends it was on account of the returning officers and the coercion of the Civil Service employés, and repeats the excuses he hears from the lips of his new found friends from Ontario. I will tell the hon. gentleman the reason he was beaten absolutely in the last election. He was beaten for a reason given to him by one who, although not a leader of his party in Nova Scotia, is entitled to be one, if ability and certain breadth of mind entitle an hon. gentleman to assume that position in the ranks of his party. When this miserable played out cry of repeal was raised in Nova Scotia, and the senior member for Halifax was desperate enough to adopt it, what was the platform laid down by him? It was this, as stated by an organ of the hon. gentleman:

"Neither political party of Canada ever has been, is now, or ever can be, friendly to Nova Scotia's interest, simply because Confederation has been, is, and ever will be, ruinous to this Province, and therefore no party which advocates the maintenance of the Union can be Nova Scotia's friend. No liberal opposed to repeal or luke-warm in the cause is now a member of what once was the Grit party of Nova Scotia. No such party now exists. The few anti-repeal Liberals are nowhere, and will have to stay there or yield gracefully to the wishes of the people and join the repeal enemy. The Liberals of Nova Scotia, by making repeal their platform, ceased to be a Canadian party, their one great aim and object being to secure separation from Canada. If Mr. Fraser is wrong in saying that 'the Nova Scotia party must fight them both' (Blake and Macdonald), then what in the name of all that is sensible did the party mean by raising the repeal cry? Fight them both we must, fight them both we will, till repeal is won. No looking back to regret for past friendships."

Mr. JONES. Who is that?

Mr. TUPPER. The *Pictou News*, and my hon. friend will not deny that it is one of the strongest organs of his party in eastern Nova Scotia.

Mr. JONES. Oh, an organ.

Mr. TUPPER. And it was to people who believed that stuff that the hon. gentleman appealed when he was asking for their votes in the city of Halifax, and the men who believed that at the time cheered the hon. gentleman and worked for him in that election. Mr. Pipes, to whom I have referred, said long ago that it would not be the returning officers or the corrupt and coercive Government that would secure his defeat, but he told him that "the jackals and crows may live on the putrefying bodies of the slain, but no political party or political man can prosper on the putrefying carcass of repeal." That was one of the hon. gentleman's friends and associates, and the day has come, as I am glad to see, when the hon. gentleman now recognises, as he appears to do so to-night, that