

that the Minister will not carry out his intentions with regard to the workingmen of Ontario as he has done with regard to the workingmen down in the eastern provinces. If the Minister of Railways is going to introduce these methods into the administration of the Dominion of Canada, then all I can say is: "God help the Dominion of Canada." I am not saying for a moment that the Government would act unjustly in dismissing active and open enemies; but if the Government should do anything in that direction, it will be a precedent that will encourage the next Government—unless the present Government hang on to power forever—it will encourage the next Government to do more, and the next Government more, and the next Government still more, in the same line. How can we hope for a reform in the civil service if such a precedent is laid down. The safeguards of our civil service will be swept away, and our politics will be degraded into a petty squabble over the right to peddle out offices which are opened by every change of Government. The Government can now establish a precedent that will prevent similar offences in the future without making a gallows to hang the unfortunate sinners who have offended in the past.

Mr. MILLS. When I entered Parliament in 1887, I was taught by the Liberal-Conservative leaders of that day, that no Government official should be dismissed unless there was a proper charge of malfeasance brought against him and sustained. My county of Annapolis was smarting at that time, under the unjust dismissal of a number of its prominent officials by the then local government—I refer more particularly to the high sheriff and to the registrar of deeds—it was smarting as I say under the dismissal of those two officials, men who were eminent as citizens, high in social position in the county, men respected by all classes, but whose positions were desired by the partisans that were bolstering up the local government of Nova Scotia in the county of Annapolis at that date. These officials were dismissed, one upon a most paltry charge—the charge that in the deeds and other documents which he was recording in the registry office he had not counted the exact number of words in the folios for which he charged. Before an unprejudiced and unbiassed man, on the testimony that was brought out, the charges could not be sustained, and were not sustained by the very best people in the county of Annapolis, Liberals and Conservatives alike. Smarting as I say our people were under these gross dismissals of officials, many of them came to me and asked me to dismiss this preventive officer, and that clerk or collector of customs, this postmaster and that postmaster, all Grits. There were no less than three dozen such officials, open and active Liberals, men who took an active part in all the revision courts on behalf of

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON.

Liberals, who were chairmen of committees, who attended all the caucuses of the Liberal party in the county of Annapolis, who were prominent in everything that was done in the interest of that party. My people came to me and said, "We want these people dismissed." I will mention the names of some of them: Edgar Porter, collector of customs at Thorn's Cove; Augustus Fullerton, collector of customs in the county of Annapolis; Warden Roop, warden of the county of Annapolis, postmaster at Clementsport. There was Elliott, the late postmaster at Port George, a man who was so violent a partisan that in 1887 the only insult I ever received in the county of Annapolis—and it was a most desperate fight that we had in 1887—I received from this man. Charges were brought against him. I came to the leaders of the Liberal-Conservative party in the Dominion Parliament and asked them to dismiss this man. They said, "Bring a charge against him, and have that charge sustained, and we will dismiss him." I went back to my people and told them that. I said, "The policy of the Liberal-Conservative Government is to dismiss no man unless there is a charge of malfeasance brought against him, sustained and proved." That was done time and time again. I could mention more of these names. Not one single man has been dismissed in the county of Annapolis since 1887; and, as I have said, there were no less than about three dozen Liberals acting as postmasters, collectors of customs, preventive officers, and lighthouse keepers in that county. But now, forsooth, the political morality of the Dominion is to be thrown back twenty years, and by whom? By no less than the local premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, who have been wallowing around in their little mud holes for the last eighteen years, and doing those very things they want this Dominion Parliament now to do.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Not in New Brunswick.

Mr. MILLS. Yes, and in Nova Scotia as well. I know of my own knowledge that this has been done in Nova Scotia; and now the defeated candidate in Annapolis writes up to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and alleges that certain officials in that county have been active partisans against him, and that he wants them dismissed in order to put in—whom? The most degraded of political partisans. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries smiles. I will mention one man's name.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No, I would not mention the name.

Mr. MILLS. This man is so insignificant that I will not mention his name.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name.

Mr. MILLS. I will not mention his name, as my leader has asked me not to do so; but I am not afraid, so far as the county of