

carried Halifax county triumphantly, until the later returns came in, which indicated that my hon. friend would probably be ahead of my colleague, Mr. Fuller. I am sorry to disturb the picture which he so eloquently drew, but he will, perhaps, remember that it was the eve of our penitential service, that the next day we entered on our forty days' abstinence, and I can only say that our abstinence was not affected in any way by the result of the election, or by what passed previously or subsequently to that day. The hon. gentleman says that I was disappointed in the result of the election in Halifax. I tell him frankly that I was, although I was not as much surprised as some people were, probably because when I went around the county I ascertained one fact. I did not spend two days in the city. I found we had a corrupt revising barrister—I will not say a corrupt revising barrister, to the extent that those words might mean, because those who know Mr. Eaton, and I do not know him personally very much, do not blame him so much as they blame the men who surrounded him, and especially the man who was appointed as his clerk. That man was the permanent secretary of the Tory party in Halifax. I am not accusing Mr. Eaton of all the irregularities, although as a matter of course he was responsible on account of his position. Most people are rather disposed to blame the clerks and the people he had about him. What was the fact? Why, Sir, we proved the right of men to be put on the lists; their right was admitted by Mr. Eaton; but when the final list came out, I found as many as five, ten, or fifteen names omitted in every polling district, and we had seventy-five polling districts in Halifax county. When I ascertained that, I told our friends: "Gentlemen, when you come to take that fact into account, and estimate that you have from 400 to 500 Dominion officials to vote against you, which you had not in the June elections, you must expect a smaller majority," and I told my colleague that if we won 200, it would be as much as we could expect. I got 150, while my colleague did not come quite up to that figure. That is the way the elections in Halifax were run. My hon. friend says the Local elections were carried by 1,000 or 1,200 in June before. I admit that; but the hon. gentleman, to be perfectly candid, should have told the House that I polled 200 more votes than Mr. Fielding, the Premier of the Province, polled in June previous, when he had 1,000 majority. The hon. gentleman says he was not aware of any promises having been made by the various Ministers who visited Nova Scotia. I said in a general way the other night that the Ministers who visited New Scotia previous to and during the elections, had made promises there of railway subsidies, which they stated it was the policy of the Administration to grant. Does the hon. gentleman wish me to mention some of them? I will mention the Short Line Railway from Pictou to Oxford. I have here a Minute of Council which the Minister of Finance, the Postmaster General and the member for Pictou distributed all over those counties—they were picked up in bushels—pledging the Government to make that a public work, and I am glad to see by the Order Paper that they are going to carry out their promise and vote an additional \$500,000 for that road. That is only in fulfilment of promises made by members of the Government during that campaign.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Corrupt promises.

Mr. JONES. They may not be corrupt in a legal sense; but when Ministers go to a Province or a community, and promise to spend public money in works in which the people are largely interested, I think this House will agree with me that such promises will be a very important factor in securing the election of their friends. Then the hon. member for Hants (Mr. Putnam) carried his county in the same way; they promised assistance for the Hants Central Railway from Truro to Windsor. I attended several meet-

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ings in that county, and wherever I went I was met with that one statement that they had the word of the different Ministers and the word of the hon. member for Hants, who sits in this House to-night, that if this Government were returned that road would be carried out. Then, there was a road in Colchester from Brookfield to Stewiacke. I am not condemning these expenditures, because if the public money is to be spent in such large amounts out in the west, I do not see why we should not have some of it down by the sea. Then, the late member for Yarmouth (Mr. Kinney) went home armed with a Minute of Council to the effect that the Government were going to put in a gap between Annapolis and Digby, so as to secure a through line from Halifax to Yarmouth. They thought that might defeat Mr. Vail in Digby. The hon. gentleman could hardly occupy the prominent position he does without being aware of all these circumstances. For the last ten years, no matter who represented Halifax, my hon. friend and colleague was the real recognised leader of the party there. He was the man who directed the policy of the party in the elections, and I think the party are under obligations to him, because he was a very wise and judicious counsellor. I have often met that hon. gentleman, and although we differ on public questions, I hope we shall retain in future as in the past our personal friendship and regard. But I do not think the hon. gentleman has said anything to-night which will disprove any statement I made. I said to the hon. gentleman that he had one supporter in this House, I believe a judicious supporter. I regret that he is here, and I look upon it as a misfortune that any man should sit on that side of the House and support this Government; but if any gentleman is to come from Halifax to support them, there is no man I would rather see here to-night than my hon. friend. I pointed out that the hon. gentleman was indebted to the Civil Service of Halifax for the seat he occupies in this House.

Mr. KENNY. No.

Mr. JONES. The hon. gentleman may say no, but with all due deference to him I know that there are 400 or 500 men on the railway, connected with the Customs, Post Office, Marine and Fisheries and every other branch connected with the Government there, who went *en masse* for the hon. gentleman.

Mr. KENNY. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that there are 400 or 500 civil servants with votes in Halifax?

Mr. JONES. Yes, I say connected with these different services there are at least 400; and when you take into account the men who were taken on at the deep-water terminus, those who were sent to whitewash the penitentiary, to go up to Richmond to dig holes in the frozen earth with their picks, and who were discharged when the election was over, I say 400 votes is a moderate estimate of the number of men who were influenced in that way. You must also remember that these men had friends, so that they exercised a double influence, because they knew that their position were in peril, and their friends who desired to see them retain their positions were naturally less zealous in our cause than they would have been under other circumstances. That is the natural result of such a state of things, as any hon. member can understand. To finish the whole story, I repeat what I said then. I have nothing to take back; I have given you to-night additional evidence of the interference, and I do not think the hon. gentleman has been able to remove the impression which I gave the House the other night. I am very glad to see him here as a representative of Halifax, when my own colleague could not come, but when he and his friend and leader in the House attempt to taunt hon. members on this side with the influences which were exercised by our friends to obtain seats, I