

the Minister of Public Works had no hand in the matter. From what I have known of him during 25 years, and from, considering he is a Conservative, a somewhat intimate acquaintance with the hon. gentleman, I hope his hands are clean in this small matter. In my town there is a person of the name of McIver, who has been for years engaged on the Government dredge at \$2.50 per day, I believe, under the Department of Public Works. He faithfully discharged his duties for many years. I do not believe, there ever was a complaint against him, or a word said against him: I am quite sure there was not truthfully. He did not vote at the last election. His father and brothers voted for me. This servant of the Government, I repeat, did not vote, but he is supposed to have had strong sympathies on my behalf. On 2nd March, two days before the election took place, he wrote to Mr. Arnoldi, who, I believe, is in the service of the Public Works, and in reply received from Mr. Arnoldi the following letter:

"CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE,  
" 10th March, 1891.

" D. M. McIVER, Goderich, Ont.

" SIR,—Yours of 2nd has been received in connection with your re-employment on the dredging service of this department.

" I note what you say, that you had been to see Mr. Porter, that you were to get a letter from him. Please do so as early as possible, after receipt of which there will be no difficulty in arranging your matter.

" Yours truly,

" JNO. B. ARNOLDI,

" *Chief Mechanical Engineer.*"

That is to say, he was to continue in the service of the Government on the Government dredge. I do not know whether my friend, Mr. McIver, saw Mr. Porter or not, but I am quite sure, if he did see him, he was not at all likely to obtain a letter of recommendation from him to the Minister of Public Works. Mr. McIver tells me that he did see Mr. Porter, and Mr. Porter promised, if my memory serves me, to give him a letter, but subsequently he did not do so. He again wrote to Mr. Arnoldi on 9th April, 1891, and a letter was received by him from the Chief Mechanical Engineer. Recollect that in the first letter Mr. Arnoldi says: "It is all right; if you get a letter from Mr. Porter you will remain in the service of the Department of Public Works."

Mr. MULOCK. That was before voting.

Mr. CAMERON. On 9th April, the Chief Mechanical Engineer wrote as follows:—

"CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE,  
" 9th April, 1891.

" Mr. D. McIVER, Goderich.

" SIR.—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 5th instant, further inquiring about your being re-engaged on dredging staff. In reply I have to say that your engagement on the dredging staff terminated with the close of navigation last fall, and this spring the department has made some changes on the staff by which the position you held last year is now filled by another.

" Yours truly,

" JOHN R. ARNOLDI,

" *Chief Mechanical Engineer.*"

Before the election Mr. Arnoldi wrote that if Mr. McIver obtained a letter from Mr. Porter his services would be continued. After the elections, and when he had not obtained the letter, he was informed that the department had made some changes on the staff "by which the position you held last year is now filled by another." Will the Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

Minister of Public Works tell the House why he dispensed with Mr. McIver's services on 9th April, when he promised on 10th March that he would continue him if he obtained a letter from Mr. Porter? Had politics anything to do with it? There were no complaints against Mr. McIver.

Mr. TUPPER. What was the promise on 10th March?

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). The words are:

"I note what you say, that you had been to see Mr. Porter, that you were to get a letter from him. Please do so as early as possible, after receipt of which there will be no difficulty in arranging your matter."

The promise is as clear as a pike-staff: "After you get a letter from Mr. Porter there will be no difficulty in arranging the matter." Mr. Arnoldi subsequently replied: "The department has made some changes in the staff, by which the position you held last year is now filled by another." What was the reason? It is true the season was over in the fall of 1890. So it was in the fall of 1889, and yet this man has continued for several years to occupy the same position and the same salary without any question. Between the season of 1888-89 his services were continued. On the 5th of March he had, in fact, the promise of the Government that his services would be continued. After the election his services were dispensed with because, as I gather from the tone of the letter from Mr. Arnoldi and from what Mr. McIver said, he was supposed to be an active partisan on my behalf and to have voted for me. He was neither an active partisan nor did he vote for me. Unless there is some justification for this petty spite, the Government do not occupy a particularly enviable position. I go back again to the old position, and I say that, so far as I am individually concerned, I am glad the Minister of Customs laid down that rule. I am glad that he did not assume this responsibility without consulting the other members of the Government, and that the policy of the Administration is that every man supporting the Government has not only a perfect right to vote, but a perfect right to take the stump and advocate the cause of the Government, and make himself offensive on the stump and work in the best way he knows how for the Administration, and the Liberal party has no redress. It is a bad rule that will not work both ways, and so far as I am concerned, sitting as I have always sat in the ranks and where I hope to remain during the remainder of my life, I will support no Liberal Government which will not cut off the heads of men who make themselves justly offensive against a Liberal candidate during a political contest.

Mr. BOWELL. I am sure the leader of the Opposition must be trembling in his boots at the threat made by the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron), that he will not support him unless he will cut off the heads of all the Tories.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I did not say that.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman will have something to do, and it will occupy him more than the remainder of his natural life.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I said officials.

Mr. BOWELL. And they are very numerous.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). Yes, they are.