

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No, they will not.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Oh! that would not hurt them.

Mr. DAVIES. Not only the hon. gentleman, but if I mistake not the Finance Minister was interested in the result of the election, and although not able to come there himself, he had in the previous part of the summer done us the honor of paying us a visit, and had paved the way in the strong political speech which he made at the time he was High Commissioner. He, too, spoke to the people from Amherst, and, if I mistake not, lent the weight of his influence and his voice to the scheme for the construction of a tunnel which would involve the outlay of so many millions. The right hon. gentleman will see, with the positive denial I make, speaking for myself, and I think I can speak for my hon. colleague, for he was with me during the whole canvass, that no threats were made against the Civil Service. I am sorry the hon. gentleman has not only made the statement in this House, but I am given to understand he has already instituted proceedings against those civil servants who had the temerity or the honesty to express, by their votes, their opinion, and has authorised a commission, an inquisitorial commission, to sit in secret, and these men, it is rumored, are to have their heads cut off as servants of the Crown. I know men who have been dragged before the commission charged with having used their influence in favor of the Opposition candidates—men who I was not aware had taken any active interest in the election at all.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. To your knowledge.

Mr. DAVIES. To my knowledge. They had not even canvassed. When the hon. gentleman reads the evidence, he will see that those who gave the information have misled him, that these men who were informed against were not guilty of doing anything else than simply expressing their opinions, as they have a constitutional right to do, by their votes. They may or may not be dismissed. The policy may or may not be laid down by the hon. gentleman that to the victors belong the spoils, but if it should be, all I can say is that the day for the Reformers to return may not be so very far off, and hon. gentlemen on this side may reap some of the benefit of that policy, if that be the policy laid down. Experienced politician as the right hon. gentleman is, he might have manliness enough not to act on mere rumors or information.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. By no means.

Mr. DAVIES. No doubt if he acts fairly on the evidence those gentlemen, whose political heads are said to be cut off, will remain in their places.

Mr. JONES. I am rather surprised that the right hon. gentleman should make any reference to the influences which he says were brought to bear against the civil servants in Prince Edward Island or elsewhere. Had the right hon. gentleman been aware of the influences which were brought to bear in the Province of Nova Scotia against a large number of people who held positions under the Government there, I am sure he would have avoided any discussion of this subject to-night. The hon. gentleman went into the discussion of his position here with a majority to support his party in this House, and he was to a certain extent amusing his people with some of the expectations which some on our side of the House entertained previous to the elections. As has been mentioned by the hon. gentleman who preceded me, we had a good right to expect, if there was any sense of fair play, or any honesty in this country, if there was any intelligence in this country, looking at the history of the Government for the last seven

years, looking at the extravagance and corruption which had characterised every branch of the Government, that our party should have succeeded on the 22nd February; but we went into that fight like a man going into a contest with his right arm in a sling, with all those influences against us, with corrupt revising barristers and corrupt returning officers, and with the Civil Service against us, and with all these men brought up against us day by day, and with Ministers of the Crown going through the Province of Nova Scotia, to which I particularly refer, promising railway subsidies to every part of that Province, stating that the Government having now completed the Pacific Railway, would carry out their policy and complete all the local roads required in that Province. Why, the Minister of Finance and the Postmaster General, during their peregrinations through Nova Scotia, promised subsidies to various railways in that Province amounting to not less than eight or ten millions of dollars. A Minute of Council passed just before the election was scattered through Colchester and Cumberland and Pictou, and, if the present members for those counties are here to-day it is owing to the influence they exercised through those Minutes of Council which they brought there, pointing out that, if they were returned, the Government were going to build those local roads which the people of those counties considered necessary for their interests. In the city of Halifax, we have got about four hundred men who are in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway, and what course did the Government take in regard to them? The requisition to my hon. colleague (Mr. Kenny) and his colleague who ran the election there, was circulated through all the workshops from one end of the city to the other, and these men who were in the employment of the Government were threatened that if they did not sign that requisition the influence of the Government would be brought against them. The day before that election, when it was known that a certain number of railway men in Halifax, wanted to exercise their franchise—and franchise means freedom, and these men should exercise their franchise according to their own judgment—an order came from Moncton, from the head of the Railway Department, and every man in Halifax who was supposed to have any sympathy with the Liberal party was ordered to report himself in Moncton the next day, and every man in Moncton who was supposed to have any sympathy for the Liberal candidate was ordered to report himself at Halifax the next day, and any man at Colchester who was supposed to have any sympathy with our friends there was ordered to be in Moncton the next day, and it was the same thing with regard to Pictou. They were sent from Pictou to Halifax, from Colchester to Moncton, and from Moncton down to Halifax in that way, and so those men were deprived of the privilege of exercising the franchise. I say unhesitatingly that, were it not for the influence of Dominion officials, exercised by order of the Tory committee in Halifax, my hon. colleague would not be here to-day. He does not represent the people of Halifax in that respect. He only represents those who were controlled by the election committee in Halifax, and therefore I say that, when the right hon. gentleman ventures in this House to lecture hon. gentlemen with reference to the coercion of civil servants in this country, he had better take care to make himself familiar with all the facts. When his own colleagues the Minister of Finance and the Postmaster General, went through the counties and distributed Minutes of Council which they had prepared for the occasion, if it may not in a legal sense be put down to intimidation or bribery, it was to all intents and purposes offering the greatest bribe they could offer to the people of that country; and when this question comes up, I think they will find that we in the Province of Nova Scotia have no ground to fear the fullest, the most ample, and the most searching investigation that can be had.