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UNION MEMBERS PROTEST THEIR CRITICISMS ARE ABSOLUTELY SINCERE

Mr. Stone—Mr. Chairman, I may say that as far as the statement of the hon. Minister of Finance, that we were not sincere in our criticisms of the Agricultural policy, is concerned, I would impress upon him the fact that I was thoroughly sincere and well-meaning in my criticisms of that I am sincere, too, when I say that I wish to endorse the statements of Dr. Lloyd this afternoon relating to this matter. I am thoroughly in accord, too, with the remarks of Mr. Coaker. The best thing we can do is to follow his advice and settle down to immediate business.

Statement Incorrect

The hon. Minister said in connection with some of the members on this side of the House that we premeditated an attack upon certain members of the Government. This is incorrect, and Dr. Lloyd, I may say, is not in the habit of backbiting any of the members facing us. If the hon. Minister was not sincere in this statement, he should not have said it.

When it was said that the members in the back row would learn after a while, the truth was spoken, and we have now learnt enough to stand up and say we will not have these insults heaped upon us in this way, and that we are going to stand upon our dignity.

Funny Proceeding

The other day I referred to the dismissal of the mail carrier, Gardiner, and now I find that he has been asked to refund the sum of one hundred and five dollars and fifteen cents, which amount is alleged to have been paid him by mistake. Why was this amount paid to the man?

I want to ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House copies of the correspond-

ence in connection with this affair. If as I understand, a petition was got up to remove Gardiner, I venture to say that another petition more numerous signed can be got up in his favor.

There were more people in favor of Gardiner than against him. The thing was done through the influence of the late Colonial Secretary. As to getting the money back, probably the man has not got it now.

The Circumstances

Mr. Coaker—Mr. Gardiner had received instructions from the Postmaster-General in the autumn to continue the service, and under these circumstances I fail to see how the money can be recovered. This man Gardiner was a Union man, and the petition signed against him is signed by a number of people who are opposed to the Union.

I hope the Government will be fair and have a full investigation into this matter, and if they find that Mr. Gardiner did not carry the mail and do his work as he should, then it is alright to dismiss him. But on the other hand if he did his work and was given the appointment, and perhaps went to some expense or gave up other employment, you will have to make a thorough investigation to satisfy the people.

To Back Him Up

I am not going to back Gardiner; I am not going to back anyone who deserves punishment. I am not going to back him up if he did not do his duty, but if he did do his duty I contend that you have done wrong in dismissing him from his position.

Getting the mail over from British H. to Ireland's Eye is sometimes a very difficult job. The Arm is very often filled with slob ice, and it is a couple of miles from the mainland.

If there was bad weather it might not be possible to get across for two or three weeks. But if there was good weather and he did not bring the mail, you did perfectly right in dismissing him.

Not Fair Play

As the Colonial Secretary have stated that Mr. Gardiner will have an opportunity in the Court to vindicate himself, I presume that he is going to be taken into Court to try and make him refund this money. If this is done I hope the Government will also take into court men who have been paid money for railway awards they were not entitled to.

I know of a case in Bonavista Bay where two men have been paid for the same piece of land. I shall be pleased to give the Government lists of these awards if they want them. If any man has received money that he is not entitled to, he should be made pay it back. I hope the Government will investigate these matters and let us know all about them.

Mr. Jennings' Protest

Mr. Jennings—Just a few remarks regarding the remarks made by the hon. Minister of Finance and Customs. He said during his remarks that criticisms from the members of this side of the House were insincere, that they did not believe what they were saying and they were merely getting up here as a matter of form. Now, if there is one thing I do value in my own character, it is sincerity.

I wish to say that any remarks that I made in this House I certainly believe and with regard to that agricultural policy that has been so much debated, I was sincere when I said, and I repeat the statement, that I never heard any good remark concerning it to come here and repeat. I am at a loss to know why.

It may be that we in Twillingate are not getting our share of the good things. I know of no results down there.

No Results

Another thing I am very sorry occurred, and that is the remarks that were directed to my learned friend Mr. Clift. I certainly believe that was unfair and undeserved. Right

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may 13, 14

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE!

through the district of Twillingate, sir, amongst political friends and political foes Mr. Clift is known as a gentleman, and I do not think that anyone can say anything against him. Another remark was made about members getting corrupted in this House. Well, that is a very poor advertisement for the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, and if that is the result of coming here we had better throw it up as a bad job. I am not going to get corrupt if I know it.

Not Ordered About

There was another remark made to the effect that down in the Opposition room we get orders to come up here and make certain criticisms against the other side. Whatever may have been the practice when the hon. gentleman was in opposition, I have not come up against anything like that. Mr. Kent or no one else has ever told me to come up here and get up and criticize the Government.

I have never got any orders of that kind or do not expect them, and I would not carry them out. Anything I have said here I am personally responsible for and I do not come here to insult anyone on the Government side or be insulted by them.

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