

change our minds when we grow older, as some other hon. gentlemen apparently have changed theirs. Holding that opinion, I do not hesitate to say that the civil servant who thinks it incumbent upon himself to take an active part one way or the other, must expect to stand or fall with his party. And if I have any reproach with the Government—I do not say I have—but if I have any reproach to make against the Government it is that they have not discriminated sufficiently between their friends and their opponents, in the promotion of officers in the employ of the Government.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. LANDRY. Hon. gentlemen may laugh, but I repeat that if I have one reproach against them it is that I believe that, in many instances, our opponents have had a more speedy promotion, and have, in many instances, even been originally engaged more readily than our friends have been. I may be wrong in this, because I know that civil servants, as a class, are very apt to be wrongly accused; some hon. gentlemen here to-night have accused them, as a class, of supporting the Government almost unanimously, while, on the other hand, I have accused them of having voted for the Opposition. I dare say that hon. gentlemen on the other side are as sincere as I am. I do not hesitate to say that where everything else is equal—I do not say you should appoint or promote men who are manifestly unfit for the office—but where persons are equal in ability, equal in other respects, equal in honesty or integrity, I say that the Government should favor their supporters in preference to their opponents.

Mr. ELLIS. I think the hon. gentleman is insatiable. Apparently he does not get offices enough for his friends, and he is not satisfied with the rate of promotion on the Intercolonial Railway. I do not propose to quarrel with him about that. I would not have spoken on the matter at all but for a remark the hon. gentleman has made with regard to the Intercolonial Railway officials. How the Intercolonial Railway officials have voted I will not pretend to say, but that the Government, or somebody in their interest, used every possible influence to get them to vote for the Government; and that all the influence which the railway could bring to bear on the officials to vote for the Government were brought to bear, is an undoubted fact. As I was once in the Civil Service myself, knowing the risks which surround it, I kept as clear as possible of the Civil Service men in my canvass; but I may say that, in 1878, when I was postmaster of St. John, and had many subordinates, I was not applied to by the Mackenzie Government, nor by Mr. Burpee, with whom, I may say, I was in constant contact, to use any influence of any kind or sort, nor was a single official in the post office at St. John canvassed for the Mackenzie Government, so far as I am aware. But, with regard to the late election, there is no doubt that railway officials who might be supposed to possess particular influence, were sent to every point where they might be of the greatest use in assisting the Government candidates. Some were taken from their regular positions and sent to one place and another, because they were supposed to possess influence at these particular places. More than that, they were asked, and I presume they were compelled, to stand as representatives at particular polling places for particular candidates of the Government. I do not say whether they were asked to do so for my hon. friend—

Mr. LANDRY. Not with my knowledge.

Mr. ELLIS. But if there was a railway man who was supposed to be capable of performing a particular service, I am satisfied he was sent to Kent—or at any rate they were sent to St. John, or wherever else they might be supposed to be able to support Government candidates. Perhaps it is not worth while disputing about that; I am not finding any particular fault, but the facts are beyond dispute. With regard to

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what has been said by the Finance Minister, I do not think it was well to encourage civil servants to take an active part in elections, as speech-makers or canvassers, because it is only human nature that, if the Opposition party at any time come into power, they will cut off the heads of these men; and while it may be that it would be a better principle to change all the employés of the country when a new Government comes in power—and I do not say it would or would not, because I have my own ideas with regard to men who are constantly in the Civil Service, and get blue-moulded in it—yet that is not the principle adopted in this country, and it would not be well to encourage it at present by any ministerial utterances.

Mr. THOMPSON. I rise only for the purpose of calling attention to one statement which was made this evening, that a Customs official of Nova Scotia has opposed the Local Government, and that his salary was increased from \$600 to something like \$1,250, without any change of position. I should like to ask his name.

Mr. JONES. I was informed that Mr. Morris, a clerk in the Custom house, who was receiving a salary of \$650 or thereabouts, was directed by the Department here to go along the eastern shores, and take part in an election against the Local Government; that he was provided with fishery warrants to distribute along the shore where he had been fishing. I am informed that his salary has been placed at \$1,200 or \$1,250, and that he occupies the same position in the Custom house that he had previously.

Mr. THOMPSON. I do not know what Mr. Morris's action in connection with politics has been, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that he is entirely mistaken as to the action of the Government in regard to him. Mr. Morris was not in receipt of \$600 a year; he was in receipt of \$800. He receives \$1,200. His position has, however, been changed. He has received a higher appointment. In occupying that higher position, he has received a smaller salary than the person he replaced, and he has been promoted to that position at the urgent request of the head of the Customs service at the port of Halifax, namely, the Hon. William Ross, who was one of the hon. gentleman's colleagues, and he was recommended to the position before the general election. He passed the usual qualifying examination to obtain it, and was entitled to the promotion in every way, both by the examination and by long service.

Mr. JONES. My information came from one in the Department, that although his position, to a certain extent, had been changed, his duty in the Custom house to-day was the same as when he drew a salary of \$800.

Mr. THOMPSON. I repeat that the hon. gentleman has been entirely misinformed. Some time before his regular appointment and pending his promotion examination, he was appointed *pro tempore* to the office.

Mr. JONES. I think the Minister of Justice has been misinformed.

Mr. THOMPSON. No, I have not. I got the information from the department in Halifax, and subsequently from the Minister of Customs.

Mr. JONES. Does the hon. gentleman say that he did not go along the shore with the fishery warrants?

Mr. THOMPSON. I have been informed, and very credibly, that the hon. gentleman was mistaken on that point, too.

Mr. LANDERKIN. After the Minister of Railways read the circular he did read, he disappeared from the House. I think it would be well if we had that circular placed on the Table of the House to be examined. I have an idea that he was reading one of his own circulars, because I do not believe that anything of that kind emanated from our friends