

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Johnston, Lake Centre): That is something he should not have done, but I do not believe the point taken by the leader of the opposition is well taken.

Mr. WALSH: Would the chairman endeavour—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WALSH: May I ask the chairman a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. WALSH: Would the chairman endeavour to keep the hon. member who has the floor strictly to the question under discussion?

Mr. BENNETT: He is talking provincial politics, and charges theft.

Mr. FINN: The hon. member who has just spoken (Mr. Walsh) must know something about what happened in Halifax, because he wants me to be kept strictly and closely to the line. I propose to do that. May I say that as a consequence of an investigation by a royal commission, at which both sides were represented by eminent counsel, some sixteen or eighteen men who held positions in departments of the government of which the Hon. Mr. Harrington was premier, or what was known as the Rhodes-Harrington government, were dismissed from office. I remember as a boy in the town of Dartmouth seeing a young man perform tricks such as pulling rabbits out of his sleeve, but that was nothing to the tricks that were played in putting members of the harbour commission out of office and replacing them with others, as was done under the leadership of my right hon. friend the present leader of the opposition, for I tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the commissioner of births, deaths and marriages was taken down to the harbour commission and made a timekeeper. Whether he was there to see whether they were born or not, or whether they were going to be born, I do not know. Another gentleman, a Mr. Stainer, who was in charge of the collection of automobile licence fees, was also taken down there and put into a nice position, which he holds at the present time. Then the ex-Minister of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, Mr. Goucher, who represented Annapolis, was also taken care of. Mr. Hetherington, the gentleman who was in charge at Halifax, must have thought they grew potatoes on the wharves, for instead of bringing in goods through our port to be used by our people, he brought the provincial ex-Minister of Agriculture down there to become a mem-

[Mr. Bennett.]

ber of the commission of which Mr. Hetherington was the chairman. My right hon. friend the leader of the opposition cannot get away from his responsibility by telling this house in all humility that although he was called a dictator he could not possibly put the Gibb report into effect because the government and his party in the house would not permit it. Looking over the great men who have led parties in this country in the past, looking at the right hon. leader of the opposition as I do now, I have always thought him, and still think him, an outstanding man and leader in Canada, but I cannot help thinking that he allowed himself to be cajoled in connection with these particular appointments, and this gave my colleague from Halifax (Mr. Isnor) and myself the largest majority ever given in Halifax or in any constituency in Canada, a majority of over ten thousand.

The right hon. leader of the opposition speaks of the selection of the port manager. Let me tell him and hon. gentlemen opposite that Mr. Hendry has been in the shipping business in Halifax for the past twenty-five years, and is looked upon as an outstanding man by leaders in the city of Montreal and in the city of Halifax who are not Liberal. He is a graduate of Toronto university. He was made chairman of the tourist committee that was appointed by my right hon. friend opposite when he was Prime Minister. He is to-day a member of the city council and an ex-member of the council of the board of trade. He has personality; he has ability. The Halifax Herald, which is owned and controlled by Senator Dennis, said that it was one of the best appointments that could possibly have been made.

I ask my right hon. friend to look in retrospect at the appointments which he made. He appointed a gentleman, and he is a gentleman, but what was his occupation? He was the agent for Nova Scotia and the other maritime provinces for the sale of Tooke's shirts. He was placed on the harbour board to see that the port was developed. On his retirement my right hon. friend appointed Mr. Hetherington, who is a wholesale grocer, of John Tobin and Company, a citizen of whom any city might be proud. The last appointment my right hon. friend made was of the gentleman whom I have already mentioned, the provincial ex-Minister of Agriculture, and those three constituted the commission. When my right hon. friend went out of office those three gentlemen were relieved of their positions; Mr. Cornell, who was a traffic man, took charge of the port of Halifax; it was to him that the resignations of these other gentlemen were submitted, and the minister