

ing those men to report at Moncton the next day. The same course was followed at Moncton, the men being directed to report at Halifax. The same thing was done at Truro directing them to report either at Moncton or Halifax; so that in point of fact every man in the railway service of the Dominion at Halifax or along the line of the Intercolonial supposed to have any sympathy whatever with the Liberal party was directed to move out of his own county for that day, which had the effect, as a matter of course, of causing him to lose his vote. I denounced that then, and I denounce it now, as an unwarrantable interference with the rights of people who had a right to the franchise under the Act given them by Parliament. I say that so long as people had the right to the franchise given them by the Government of the day, they had a right to exercise that vote according to the dictates of their conscience, either for or against the Government. And so far from endeavoring, either myself or by my friends, to intimidate or to influence those people during that election campaign, the reverse is the fact, and, with the permission of the House, I will read an extract from a speech which I delivered on the occasion to which the hon. gentleman has referred, and if he has the whole speech he will find it is in the following words:—

"Now we have been told in this election that the expectation of Messrs. Daly and Stairs, or whoever may come out in the Tory interest, is that they are going to receive the votes of the railway employés and of the other Government employés in the departments at Halifax. I expressed my views strongly on that question the other night. I think these people should not be interfered with by either political party. They are the servants of the country, paid out of the revenues of the country. They are as much our servants as they are theirs, and they will probably be our servants, according to Mr. Daly's own views after the 22nd of next month. (Great applause.) But if we were in power to-day, I would say to those gentlemen: while you have a vote, if you honestly believe that the Tory party is the party for the Dominion, and for the city of Halifax, vote for them; but on the other hand if you believe honestly that the policy of the Liberal party is the policy in the true interests of the country, then exercise your rights as free men—exercise the right your franchise gives you, and vote for the party you think most in the interest of the country. I am told it has been said to these people that if they vote for the Tory candidate and do not say anything about it, it will never be known who they voted for, and when a change comes they will say they voted for the Grits and they will be kept on. You see they are calculating on the Tories going out and the Grits going in; of course they will know who they voted for, they had the right to vote for the man of their choice, and no one can or ought to know whom they vote for, because that is a privilege given them by the Ballot Act, which was intended for the protection of men in such circumstances. Therefore I say to these men, without knowing what their inclinations may be, to act as free men and vote for the men who, they think, will best serve the public interests of the country."

That was the declaration I made to the Civil Service of the country at the commencement of the campaign, and I did so because, from positive information I had received, I knew what threats had been made. I do not say that the hon. gentleman made them, but his friends did, and he admits himself that he interviewed these people. But I say, without charging him with making the threat, that I do make the charge of my own knowledge, that his friends went to those people and said: You must vote for us, or if not, you must accept the consequences if our Government is sustained. I knew many men, who under ordinary circumstances, would have supported us—men who were left in their places when we were in power, because we never molested them. When Mr. Brydges came into the management of the road there was not a man disturbed on the Intercolonial Railway during the time Mr. Mackenzie was in office; and when a manager was required for the North Street Station in Halifax, Mr. Brydges came to me and said: "I want a station master for North Street, do you know anyone here who will answer?" I said: "No doubt there are many people in Halifax who think they can run the Intercolonial Railway, but I do not know anyone; do you know of any suitable man yourself?" He said: "There is a gentleman at Rivière du Loup by the name of Macdonald, but he is a Conservative." I said: "I don't care what he is; if he is a good man, bring him down

and put him in as station master." He did so, and he has been there ever since, without interference by our Government when we were in power. During the whole time our Government was in power there were not five men of our side of politics placed on the Intercolonial Railway in the city of Halifax. There were two men who went into the department as clerks, but the moment the change came their salaries were cut down, simply because we put them there. They left immediately, and one of them has been in my employ since, and he is one of the best men that ever was upon that road. I mention these facts to show that we had men on that road who, under ordinary circumstances, would sympathise naturally with us, considering the fair manner in which we treated them. We never molested them, and if they were entitled to promotion, Mr. Brydges promoted them, and I never interfered with them directly or indirectly. Those men are still on the road, and, therefore, I say it was natural to suppose that there were many of them remaining there from old times, who would have remembered with some sense of justice the fair treatment accorded to them by the Mackenzie Administration, and would under ordinary circumstances have voted for myself, or given a split vote, as the case might be. I asked no man; I never was near them from the beginning to the end, but I knew there were 400 or 500 votes in the various departments, and I knew that there was coercion brought to bear on these men in every branch. A short time before the election, when it was not known when the elections would come on, a number of men were working at the deep water terminus. They had their wages cut down, but the moment the writs came out for the election, the wages of every one of them were advanced up to the rate they had received before. In addition to the number of people engaged in the Civil Service, they sent a lot of men down to the old penitentiary to whitewash, repaint, and clean up that old building, which had been abandoned as a penitentiary ever since the penitentiary was removed to Dorchester ten or twelve years ago. They were put on simply that they might be employed on that occasion and their votes secured. The hon. gentleman talks about their interference. Why, during the last Local election in Nova Scotia what did we see? An order came down to the Custom house in Halifax, from the department at Ottawa, to a young man in the Custom house there, whose name I will give the Minister if he asks for it, whose summer holidays had just expired. He had just returned to his duty after having been fishing down along the coast, at a place where he generally spent his vacation, and it was supposed that he had some influence in that locality. The order came from the Customs Department at Ottawa to say: Give that young man a fortnight more holidays, and he was sent down by the Tory election committee in Halifax, and his pockets were filled with fishing bounty cheques, to be taken up and down the shore and distributed among the fishermen. He spent a fortnight there, when he should have been in the Custom house, and that was done by the order of the Government. Now, looking at these things, one almost wonders at the innocence of my hon. friend. Of course he knows nothing about these things. He has a very happy faculty of remembering some things and forgetting others, but I have no doubt, when I bring these facts to the remembrance of my hon. friend he will recall the circumstances very well. The hon. gentleman says we were sure of sixteen seats; that we made a great boast of it, and that we were very much disappointed at our gathering at the provincial building on the eve of the 22nd. All I can say is that the hon. gentleman is entirely inaccurate in his description of the great preparations which were made, and I suppose it arises from the fact that the hon. gentleman was not there. He was not invited, of course; but I can say that we did meet that evening as usual; that we did speak as usual, and we did anticipate that we had