

the general manager at Moncton attend to these matters? Why should a letter go from Ottawa, from the minister, about buying some few thousand barrels or few thousand gallons of oil from the New Brunswick Oil Company? The minister had been, up to a few months before, president of the company and although he had retired from the presidency in favour of Mr. Sumner, he still had himself his interest in the company. Was it not a natural result that Mr. Butler, his deputy, should do practically the same thing with the belting? That is the way abuses creep in. There is another feature of it. Every person who has had anything to do with such transactions knows that the main trouble is not about the price. The trouble is about the quality. You can get prices and prices, but the question is: Do you get the quality? Above all things in buying oil, there is danger that you may never get the oil you bargained for. If the officers know that the minister at the head of the department is interested in the oil which is being supplied are they likely to look closely into the quality, or to scrutinize the quantity and see that the department is getting everything that it is paying for? My experience of human nature is that men are not apt to look too closely into such matters when they know that they may burn their fingers by doing so. I do not wish to continue at length at this stage of the session but I say again to the hon. minister that he would do far more in the interest of the Intercolonial Railway by correcting the methods in vogue there, by preventing improper interference with the officers and abstaining himself from any interference with them where his own interests are concerned than by cutting down wages or by other things of that kind that he is probably looking forward to.

Mr. EMMERSON. My hon. friend (Mr. Barker) has indulged in some fictions. If they were facts his conclusions might be acceptable. He said that year after year we were making promises as to what was to be done in future. I must assume that he was not in the House and that he did not hear of the results which have been accomplished during the present year. That does not seem to satisfy him. He is not pleased. He is very much disturbed. Then he starts in and imagines a lot of things. He has referred to a letter which I wrote to Mr. Pottinger in connection with the acceptance of oil by the New Brunswick Petroleum Company. It would perhaps not be parliamentary to charge the hon. gentleman with not being serious—

Mr. BARKER. I am perfectly serious. I have not said anything that is not in the evidence.

Mr. EMMERSON. So much the worse for the hon. gentleman if he is. He has said

that I gave instructions that if a report were made which was satisfactory they could purchase this oil. What are the facts? A report had been made. The Intercolonial Railway had been purchasing New Brunswick oil for a year or more in some parts of the works. I knew nothing of it. They had started in to make Pintsch gas and it appears that the New Brunswick Petroleum Company had left some of their oil with the man who has charge of the Pintsch gas factory and that they had it tested and had secured a report. This was all done before I knew that there had been New Brunswick oil tested or used as an experiment. Subsequently they came and said: Here you are purchasing oil used in the manufacture of Pintsch gas from Pennsylvania; you are getting it from the Standard Oil Company; you are bringing it to Montreal entering it free of duty and you are paying the freight from Montreal to Moncton; the freight, plus the duty, makes the cost about fifteen cents a gallon; here is the oil that has been used; here is the report of your officials which says that New Brunswick oil is equal in every respect to this foreign article and you can get it for ten cents a gallon right where it is produced. It is true that I had been connected with the company. But, my hon. friend can go down to New Brunswick and tell that story and they will laugh at him. They know it is not a commercial company. They know that I went into that company for the purpose of developing the oil fields of New Brunswick. I had faith in them. This transaction would in no sense inure to my financial advantage. It is not a commercial transaction at all. Mr. Sumner told about the business. My hon. friend cannot take exception to Mr. Sumner in his political capacity and if I, as Minister of Railways, had done anything wrong in connection with the transaction, Mr. Sumner would have been the first to have availed himself of it.

Mr. BARKER. He is a stockholder and president of the company.

Mr. EMMERSON. It is true and he is a large stockholder in the Moncton 'Times,' the Tory organ in the city of Moncton. That is Mr. Sumner. Every body in New Brunswick knows that I have never in any way received any financial advantage in connection with the New Brunswick Petroleum Company. It is true that I have put considerable money into it, but I prefer rather to have it a success and my stock has been handed over with the intention of making it a success rather than that I should make one dollar out of it. My hon. friend belongs to a party which is always shouting: Use home products. Simply because I had a remote interest in the success of that company should I stop the use of Canadian New Brunswick oil brought out of the ground there in their prospecting