

election in the County of Halifax, with reference to this matter, was as follows :—I was under the impression that in the year 1870 (my authority for it was the gentleman who represents the County of Cumberland in the Commons, in a speech which he made at Halifax some two or three years ago) it was decided on the recommendation of the Intercolonial Railway Commissioners to remove the headquarters of the Intercolonial from Halifax to Moncton. Perhaps that may not be the fairest way of putting it. Up to that time the headquarters of the Government railways of Nova Scotia had been situated at Halifax—the principal workshops, and the office of the Traffic Superintendent and other offices of that kind were in the city of Halifax. In 1872, I think it was, the railway was completed from Halifax to St. John, and, unless I am mistaken, it was in the year 1873 that the offices—what are called the head offices of the Intercolonial Railway—and the principal workshops for the whole road were located at Moncton. The locating of the principal workshops of the railway and the principal business offices at Moncton are the things that were generally meant by the people of Nova Scotia when they complained that the workshops and offices had been moved to Moncton. If it has been stated, it was stated incorrectly, that the workshops were removed from Halifax, because the old workshops which existed in Halifax before the change that I have just spoken of remain there still, and are used as repairing workshops in which a number of engines have been repaired, and other work done, from 1872 or '73 up to the present time, just as before. I don't know whether my impression about the thing is altogether correct or not, and it is for the purpose of ascertaining that fact I have asked for the information mentioned in the resolution. There is a good deal of misapprehension on the subject. For instance, during the recent election campaign in the County of Halifax, there were statements made by gentlemen on opposite sides in that contest which were almost in direct contradiction of each other. My own impression is, that there was perhaps no intentional misrepresentation, but the persons who made the statements looked at the matter from two different standpoints. Those who said the workshops

*Hon. Mr. Power.*

had been removed by the late Government, probably meant what I have said : That the headquarters of the Intercolonial Railway had been fixed at Moncton; and the gentlemen who said that the works had not been removed by the late Government probably meant that the workshops were continued in use at Halifax for the purposes of repairing. One gentleman who seem to be under the impression that the present Government had made the change was the hon. gentleman from Londonderry who ought to be in a position to know the exact facts of the matter, and my impression is that at the time the change was recommended that hon. gentleman was a member of the Intercolonial Railway Commission. I have nothing more to say on this matter, except that I make this motion simply in order that we may get a correct statement about a matter on which there ought to be no doubt. The history of events that happened long ago must be very hard to get at when such contradictory statements are made concerning a transaction that occurred only within the last three or four years.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said he thought it would be a very bad precedent if this Chamber, which was supposed to be free from violent political partizanship, should be selected as a tribunal to settle questions that might arise between rival political parties during the heat of an election, whether for the Dominion House of Commons or a Provincial Assembly. It might do very well for a question of this kind to arise in the House of Commons, but he thought the Senate was no tribunal to give decisions upon such matters.

Hon. Mr. McLELAN—The hon. mover of this resolution has reference to me in this matter, and though I agree with the last speaker, that this Senate is hardly the place to bring election questions for decision, I may be pardoned for making a few observations. The hon. gentleman from Halifax states that I took part in the discussion on the removal of workshops during the late election there. Reference having been made to me in the public prints, I was called upon in a short letter to give certain facts bearing on a particular point. The question there seemed to be, which Government had removed the workshops? The result of the discussion appeared to be that the party charging the late Government with having removed