

then took place? Mr. McPhail filed his petition, and Mr. Davis came down to Ottawa, and the hon. Finance Minister, it is said, telegraphed for Mr. Macarthur, and then Mr. Sifton took a hand, and the result was a corrupt bargain, under which Mr. McPhail returned, and with lightning speed got his petition withdrawn. And the result is now that the Liberals, the respectable Liberals in Prince Albert and in the Saskatchewan—I am not now speaking only for the Conservatives, but I can say that I am speaking for the respectable Liberals—

Mr. GUAY. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. Though my hon. friend (Mr. Guay) seems surprised at that, I can tell him that there are respectable Liberals in the Saskatchewan; and not merely in the Saskatchewan, for I have been recently reading in some of the papers of the province from which my hon. friend comes, language expressing of their shame at the state of things they find here at Ottawa.

Mr. GUAY. State it.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend need not be a bit afraid; I am going to lay this whole matter before the House. And I had hoped, considering the view we have frequently had of such things from my hon. friend from South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), who is now about to leave the House, I really had hoped that he would remain and second my motion.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Great is your faith.

Mr. DAVIN. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan "Times" of March 23rd, 1897, contained an article headed "The Protest Settlement Reviewed," which article is as follows:—

An interesting and highly important document now lies snugly ensconced among many other important papers, the property of Mr. J. R. McPhail, late Liberal candidate in opposition to Mr. T. O. Davis. The brief notice given out last week, that the protest proceedings in connection with the election of Pushful Thomas to the Commons has been dropped, was a decided surprise to a very large number of people of all shades of political belief. Mr. McPhail's solemn protestation, that he had ample evidence on hand to unseat and disqualify his late opponent, was taken seriously by all his friends, and much more seriously by his enemies, Davis's party, and, as a matter of fact, which can be ascertained on unimpeachable authority, we are in a position to state that he did possess evidence of the most damaging description, which, had it been disclosed in court, would have shown Grit methods of conducting elections to be the most corrupt on record, and without doubt would have relegated T. O. Davis to political obscurity. That in the face of the gross corruption collected by Mr. McPhail, and sworn to by him and others in the petition he lodged, the protest should now be dropped, came, we repeat, as a surprise. The distress of mind which the protest caused Mr. Davis, his

frantic efforts to get even with his persecutors by instituting criminal proceedings against several of McPhail's supporters, and the untiring manner in which the member and his friends, actively assisted by the Liberal Government at Ottawa, worked to secure the withdrawal of the protest, could not be regarded otherwise than as an open and unqualified confession of guilt, and being so understood by the general public, there was very general surprise and indignation when the matter was allowed to drop. Mr. McPhail himself, there is no doubt, was willing to proceed, but one by one his Grit followers forsook him. He was wired from Ottawa to meet and talk over the matter with the Finance Minister. He obeyed the summons, and appeared from that day to see things in a different light. Meanwhile, Mr. James Macarthur received notice from Hon. Clifford Sifton that the actions of himself and McPhail were a stab at the Government, and seeing any schemes he might have had for a senatorship swiftly fading, with T. O. Davis as member, devised the plan of writing out several propositions. These were submitted, first to A. L. Sifton, the Calgary peace-maker, and then sent to Brother Clifford at Ottawa. The document comprising these resolutions is that alluded to above; and, by the courtesy of two gentlemen who were accorded the privilege of seeing it, we are in a position to publish its contents.

Now, Sir, this is the document:

The Dominion Government agrees to accept J. R. McPhail as Government candidate at the next general elections, pledging themselves to do all in their power to secure his nomination and election.

Thos. O. Davis agrees to, and does, sign a promissory note in favour of J. R. McPhail for the sum of \$..... (The blank was filled in by a comparatively large sum of money.)

The following gentlemen are hereby constituted an advisory committee to act with the present member for Saskatchewan:—J. R. McPhail, Jas. Macarthur, Alexander Selkirk Stewart, Graham Neilson, William Knox.

And it is further agreed, that no appointments to office, letting of tenders and other matters connected with the representation of Saskatchewan in Parliament, shall be made or performed unless sanctioned by at least four members of the advisory committee.

The article goes on:

This is enough of the agreement to show the wondering public why the protest was dropped. It is, we believe, sufficient to convince the electors that they are represented at Ottawa by a man who, to all intents and purposes, is not only tied body and soul to support the Government, whether right or wrong, but has also allowed himself to be securely gagged and handcuffed to a half a dozen Liberals of the town of Prince Albert, who are, as will be seen by this agreement, really the member for this district.

So far as the patronage is concerned, I think, Sir, this is an agreement which strikes at the independence of a member of this House; and it is a matter, therefore, that this House should take cognizance of. I hold that the Government ought to have an inquiry, examine witnesses, whose names I shall give them, witnesses who are ready to come here and be examined—

Mr. SPEAKER. I think that when an hon. member makes what, so far as I can