

to Regina, and who never took the least part in public affairs so far as I ever heard. I think that was a very unworthy circumstance. Perhaps it is susceptible of an explanation not so sinister as that it was actuated by political motives. I may say to the Government that in the North-west Territories we have not applied the strict rules of patronage to the public service. I have had something to do with the patronage there, for something like twelve years, and during those years men have got into the service who were Liberals, who were outspoken, and properly outspoken, in their advocacy of Liberal views; and we never resented their zeal or their activity or their outspokenness, and never cancelled their appointments. In the election of 1891 some of my Liberal friends who were in the public service did not scruple to show their leanings or to express their opinions; but that never caused the least political resentment in my bosom, nor did it mitigate or militate against our friendship. It is a matter of great gratification that such sound opinions should have fallen from such leading statesmen on the Liberal side as we have heard to-night, because the fact entirely throws to the winds the views I had heard freely expressed outside. Now, Sir, reverting to what my own knowledge enables me to speak of in regard to the conduct of the Conservative party towards those who had taken part in elections, when I ran in Haldimand in 1878, officials there were active against me, spoke on the platform against me; and I may tell you what happened when I heard that we had won. You will remember that the first little shower showed a loss for the Conservatives. One Conservative seat after another went, and when I got to Cayuga and heard how things were, I merely said, "We are scooped." But the next morning, when I learned that we had won, I at once drove to Caledonia, where I met a man who was as active against me as one public man could be against another. I saw that he was very much afraid of what might happen to him, and I said to him, "You may go in peace; if every hair in your head was an offensive official not one of them should fall." Not a man in Haldimand was dismissed for taking action against me in that election, and so far as I heard there was not anything like a vengeful course pursued by the predominant party in 1878. So far as my own experience and my own action has gone in the North-west Territories, we have not applied any strict rule. We have been very liberal towards the Liberals there.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did not know you had any Liberals in office there. I thought they were all Conservatives.

Mr. DAVIN. Then you do not know much about the North-west Territories. One of the leading government officials in Regina

is one of the most active—I am not saying improperly active—and one of the most astute and enlightened Liberals in Canada.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). Who is he?

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. Minister knows who he is as well as I do. He is a personal friend of my hon. friend. But during the time I have had something to do with the patronage there, two gentlemen, strong Liberals, who were active against myself in the last election, and also in 1891, were appointed, and I did not object to it. I may say that I myself gave the patronage to leading Liberals in Regina. In one department the whole patronage was given to Liberals. I just say that because I think it is desirable that it should be known what course we have taken in the North-west Territories.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman might be accused of trying to seduce the allegiance of those gentlemen.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, no. The best answer to the suggestion of my hon. friend is this, that I never said a word to either of the gentlemen I speak of, and in fact it would be useless, because they are very strong and very zealous Liberals. Mr. Speaker, I merely rose to make these few remarks on a subject that is of great importance, and to express my gratification at the sound views, true to the best traditions of Canada, true to British traditions, and I believe in the best interest of the country, which have fallen from the Treasury benches this evening.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, as the hour is late, and a large number of members have gone home over Sunday, and as the subject under discussion evidently arouses a great deal of interest, I beg, with the indulgence of the First Minister, to move the adjournment of the debate.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I cannot agree to that.

Mr. BENNETT. In the somewhat protracted debate upon the Address from the Throne, a large number of hon. gentlemen complained that the manufacturers of this country were not being properly treated, that no pledges were made and no intention evinced by the Government as to the position they proposed to take on the question of the tariff. It will now be, I think, a further most reasonable complaint to make that while no intention is evinced by the Government as to what they propose to do with the tariff, a large class of the community, the office holders of the Dominion, have had some intimation of what the Government propose to do in their regard. This has not been so much perhaps evinced by words as by acts, and it is only fair perhaps on this occasion to the civil service of the country—