

but had not the manliness to come before this House or before the country, and give their true reasons. I will give an instance of this in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. The Eastern Nova Scotia terminus of the Intercolonial Railway is at Port Mulgrave, on the Strait of Canso. A steamer connects the Island of Cape Breton with Nova Scotia proper, and constitutes a portion of the Intercolonial Railway, inasmuch as it ferries passengers and freight from one side of the Strait of Canso to the other, and from one train to the other, from the Nova Scotia side to the Cape Breton side. On the Cape Breton side there are two termini. At one of these termini was appointed by the Dominion Administration, a Liberal, namely, George C. Lawrence, Esq., a gentleman who is a most efficient officer, by the way, a brother of the Speaker of the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia, educated and of excellent ability. It was found rather inconvenient to take that man squarely by the official throat. But other means were found, not the frank, fair, square and manly way declared by the Minister of Railways this evening, but a round-about way, a measure, and a manner that enabled the leader of the then Government to protest against the party being guilty of this, that and the other heinous crime against political decency. It was done in this way: Commands were given from headquarters that Port Hastings was no more to be the railway terminus of that ferry steamer, that the railway steamer, as it is called, was no longer to stop at Port Hastings. Mr. Lawrence then found that he was—his official head cut off as this is now-a-days called—out of office. In order to give their action a show of decency, a few months were permitted to elapse, and lo and behold! a brand new Tory official starts up and ensconces himself in the office of the railway agent at Port Hastings, and is there to this hour. I would ask the hon. leader of the Opposition if he would solemnly protest against my recommending to this Government a measure of the same description being meted out to every gentleman who holds office in that way now. I say to this Government that the people of Inverness would consider that I was recreant to my duty as their representative if I failed to ask this Government to dismiss partisan officials in my county. In regard to the statement made with respect to the line of demarcation between partisan and non-partisan officials, I hold that public opinion is the court of last resort, and the electors of Inverness County have sent me here to ask among other needed reforms the Liberal Government of Canada to dismiss any partisan official in my county, and I feel that this Government can safely rely upon public opinion in that county not to command anything in this regard to offend public or political decency. The leader of the Opposition and the hon.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness).

member for Pictou invaded my county at three points in last May, during the heat of the campaign, surrounded by an escort of individuals, seven out of ten of whom were Dominion officials, and he and the then Solicitor General predicted, and did their utmost endeavours to secure, my defeat; and why I ask should I now heed their protests in regard to dismissals of these same partisan officials however solemnly and emphatically these may be made. I say here and now that it is unreasonable in these gentlemen to expect me to pay heed to these solemn protests in view of the action of those partisan officials, the leader of the Opposition being my best witness as to their guilt, at the same time declaring that I would not be elected. I ask if it would be unreasonable for me to ask for the dismissal of the partisan officials who went around with the leader of the Opposition in the steamer "Blue Hill," when they invaded my constituency and announced that I would be defeated by the then representative who had been in Parliament eighteen years. They declared I would be left at home; but I am here to represent the county of Inverness, and also to declare that I will ask the present Government to dismiss partisan officials, and I call upon the leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to say whether or not seven out of the ten men forming the escort of the leader of the Opposition on that occasion were not Dominion officials? I recall also a party paper published at Port Hawkesbury, containing a portrait of the leader of the Opposition and of my opponent, declaring that the Conservatives would be successful at the elections of 23rd June, describing the magnificent success which had attended the leader's political tour in my county, and depicting in glowing terms the procession that escorted him from Port Hood to the steamer "Blue Hill" to the stirring strains of the pibroch, the tune being equally soul-stirring: "Wha will be king but Charlie." Bonnie Prince Charlie was a pretender to the throne of England. He never became king, however; and history only repeats itself, because the coronation in the case under consideration has been indefinitely postponed. There are Government telegraph lines running through a great portion of my county, and there are six Government telegraph offices, but at the present time there is not a Liberal holding one of them. The office at Margaree, where I reside, was in the hands of a Liberal, but was turned out two or three weeks before the elections, and there was not one operator I could trust to send a message as the instrument was removed to the office of the most violent Tory in the county of Inverness. With respect to Nova Scotia officials, I must say—and I appeal to other Liberal members from that province to endorse my statement—the strongest charge that the Liberals have made and are mak-