

want to make this document public unless I have to. All this man asks is to have an investigation into the cause of his summary dismissal from the Intercolonial. A few days prior to his dismissal a burglary had taken place in the Government railway ticket office in St. John. An investigation was being carried on by the police of the Intercolonial as well as the police of St. John. Finally, the whole thing was called off and Mr. Carvill was summarily dismissed. Mr. Carvill is a man with whom I have not the slightest acquaintance. I do not know him and I do not know that I have ever had an opportunity of meeting him. I know nothing about his politics or anything else. The correspondence I have had has been with the legal gentleman who has been retained by Mr. Carvill, as also with Mr. Carvill, and I may say for the information of my hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. Currie) that this legal gentleman is a strong Tory. He is the gentleman who has communicated with me. You see that I am at least taking up a case on behalf of a good Tory in the city of St. John, and I am glad to do it. As I say, this man was summarily dismissed. He and his wife feel keenly the implication—and the assumption is present in the minds of a certain number of the people of the city of St. John—that he was dismissed because he was mixed up with this burglary. That view was brought to his attention more particularly very recently. I might just refer to one incident. The elections for the commissioners of the city took place a couple of months ago. Mr. Carvill, who is a resident of St. John, had written a public letter in which there was nothing offensive suggesting that some repairs should be made to certain streets, as men often will do, and that letter was published in an evening paper. The next morning he received a letter dated St. John, January 19, 1920, which reads as follows:

Mr. George Carvill: Go and pay back the money you stole from the Intercolonial railway; I will look after the city of St. John.

Mr. J. D. REID: Is it an anonymous letter?

Mr. COPP: It is not an anonymous letter exactly; it is signed but it does not give any initials. It just gives the surname of the person who is supposed to be the writer. It is the name of a public man and I do not want to give it. That shows the position that this man is placed in, and it shows how that position can be misstated and misconstrued. This burglary occurred and a few days after this man was summarily

dismissed. He asked for an investigation. He claims he should have been reinstated. I am not here to say that; I do not know. If he was incompetent and was not conducting his office properly I would place myself on record as taking the position irrespective of politics that if a man holding a public office is not properly discharging his duties he has as much right to be dismissed as anybody else. But, while taking that position, I contend that a man who has given service for eighteen years and against whom no complaint has been made has a right to have his case inquired into when he believes himself to have been dismissed without cause. This burglary occurred between six o'clock Saturday night and seven o'clock Monday morning and in a few days this man was summarily dismissed, and the whole investigation in regard to the matter was called off. What conclusion would the ordinary individual come to but that they had found that he was guilty of this theft, and that they had dismissed him? It is unfair, it is a gross injustice to this man, I care not what his politics may have been. It is a gross injustice, an injustice that goes before his friends in the city of St. John, blackens his character and reputation and he has no opportunity of publicly defending himself in regard to the transaction. I repeat it is unfair on the part of the officials of the road. I do not blame the minister personally but I desire to get some reasonable assurance that this man will be given an opportunity of having his case investigated. I care not how old he may be, I care not how poor he may be, he is entitled to a decent, fair investigation when his reputation is blackened by the people who have summarily dismissed him without giving him a chance to vindicate his reputation and to show he was not guilty of the theft with which he has been practically charged by people in the city of St. John. That is the condition of affairs. This man has asked repeatedly—through letters written by himself, through his solicitor, and through his wife—for the Railway Department to appoint a commissioner so that he might give evidence under oath and call witnesses and clear himself from this suspicion. All he wants is an opportunity to prove his innocence with respect to the stealing of public money. That opportunity of establishing his innocence has been denied him by the men who have charge of the Intercolonial Railway; and I say it is unfair and inhuman that men holding high positions and drawing big salaries