

to vote for the Tory candidate. Of course, it was his privilege to vote for whom he chose, but, when he came back to work on the railway, he was told that he had not voted for the Tory candidate, and he was told to go to the other side of the street in Tignish, to a Tory magistrate, and swear that he did vote for the Tory candidate. Is that independence? When a man issues a card to the electors, how does he address it? "To the free and independent electors." Is that what is practised in connection with this Government railway? I find that the same thing was practised in Westmoreland, N.B. I find that a certain gentleman, who voted for the two Opposition candidates in the local election, who were friends of the present Government in the Dominion, was told, he being an employé of the Intercolonial Railway, to go and swear before a magistrate that he voted for the Government candidate. How many more instances are there of this kind of thing? That is, no doubt, why Liberal constituencies are so difficult to carry, when this sort of thing takes place throughout the length and breadth of the land. Men are told that if they vote for the Liberal candidates they will be dismissed. In 1887, I remember a gentleman living in Prince Edward Island who was a tidewaiter, and no fault could be found with him except that he voted for myself and my colleague, and an investigation was held at Summerside, a very farcical one, it is true, but we find that this is the practice carried on in Prince Edward Island at the last election. These two men have been dismissed, and for what? We find this Government railway is being used—for what? We find a man in Charlottetown, who was acting as agent for the Conservative Association in King's County, writing to his friends there to say that there would be trains leaving on the morning of the election day at 10 o'clock to convey the electors, and that it would be all O K, and that they had made arrangements to pay \$100 to bring the voters there from the three counties, but it would be refunded, though they must keep it all dark. I ask the Minister if this money has been refunded? The promises were made by this gentleman that the Department of Railways would refund the money, and the same parties also made use of the railway to carry the whiskey which they obtained at \$6.50 a case for election purposes from Charlottetown to Montague, and I should like to know how much freight was paid on that. Very likely the railway carried this whiskey for nothing, and I have no doubt if the money was paid it has been refunded. I think I am safe in saying as I do, and in making the charge I do against the Minister of Railways that the money has been refunded. We are living in an age when presents are made and when gentlemen take spells of weakness very often, and we will show by the returns of the revenue of the Prince Edward Island Railway whether this money was returned or not. It is not surprising that the deficit on that railway should be as it has been for some time if the favoritism is so great and electors are taken free to the polls on election day. It is due to these gentlemen, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Muttart, that a proper investigation should be held, and if they are not guilty of any serious political crime, more than having voted according to their conscience, they should be put back in the places from which they were so unjustly driven. The country expects

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fair-play in these matters, and if these men do not get fair-play the country will blame the Department of Railways. If these men had been found guilty of any dereliction of duty, or of standing on public platforms agitating the electors in favour of the Opposition candidates,—if they had been found guilty of all these great crimes, then they might be dismissed; but if they simply recorded their votes in the ballot box, the Minister of Railways nor anyone else has any right to know how they did vote, and they have a right to occupy the positions from which they were driven away. Mr. Unsworth is not a man who is likely to do that kind of a thing; he is too much of a gentleman for that, and I do not accuse him of that, but I am inclined to accuse other men, because, when they were disappointed and could not carry the election, they were willing to blame anyone whatever, even presidents of railways and the Minister of Railways, or somebody else, for leaving the candidates 300 or 400 behind. I think the Minister of Railways, or the administrator of that department, should satisfy the House on this question. I am told that all the charges against Mr. Saunders amounted to this: that he was ordered to clear a certain portion of the track and had to hire men to do that; that he hired all he could, and he got, amongst others, Mr. Peters, who lives near there, but who is a Liberal, and this was one of the great crimes committed by this gentleman and one of the reasons why he has been turned out of his employment, simply that he hired a Grit to go on this work on the railway when the section man could not find anyone else. Now, has it come to this in the Dominion of Canada, that the Government, before they will give a man a day's work, are going to swear him to know whether he is a Grit or a Tory? Has it come to this? I believe it has, in some parts of Canada, I believe it has come to that in Prince Edward Island, and, Sir, if it has come to that, the sooner we have a change the better. I do not know how this change is to come about, but one of these days, perhaps, there may be a vote of want of confidence in these gentlemen. But, all these jokes apart, I know very well that it is easy for the department to make reasons where there is no reason, and I say that unless they are able to satisfy this House and the public generally, that they were justified in dismissing these two men, they have a right to give them redress by replacing them in the position from which they were driven without rhyme or reason. I, for one, would not be satisfied, and the country will not be satisfied, until it is known publicly what were the faults for which these two men were dismissed. When I am at home I see them often, but I never heard a word against them. I made enquiry and could not find out one single reason why the department had dismissed them, except the political reason that I have mentioned. I believe Mr. Saunders was told to be very particular not to hire a Grit, but to hire all Tories, but as he could not go out of the place to look for hands, as he had no horse and sleigh, he had to hire the men he found on the spot, and one of them happened to be a Grit. Something in the same line was done to a gentleman in Summerside in 1887, a Mr. Ronald Campbell, tidewaiter, who was dismissed for no other reason than that he had voted for the Liberal candidate. It is true there was a sham trial in