

Mr. MONK. In the case of Canso, if the hon. gentleman has a fair ground for investigation, it will certainly be granted. There is an investigator named for the purpose, and if there is any kind of allegation that the person named has not had justice rendered, an investigation will take place.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I cannot understand how a ground can be established by a defendant who does not know what the charge against him is. In so far as Sutherland is concerned I am not able to find out if any charge was made against him. How is Sutherland to show that he has the right to a trial unless there is something specific? The minister has adopted a very curious method and it does not strike me that it is in accordance with the usual principles of British justice that the defendant should be told to show ground why he ought to have a trial. The principle that I have been accustomed to is that the defendant is innocent until some one lays a charge against him and then, if he knows what the charge is, justice requires that he shall have an opportunity of answering it. That does not seem to be the method of my hon. friend at all. Some secret charge is laid against the official by somebody and on that secret charge my hon. friend dismisses the official. Then he comes to us and says that if this man can show fair ground for a trial he will give him a trial and if it turns out that he has not done anything wrong he will compensate him. That is an extraordinary method. I do not think we have made much progress during the last few years if that is the best we can do. I should think the minister should commence at the other end, he should first notify the man that a charge has been made against him of some kind and ask him to appear and stand his trial and if nothing is proven he should allow him to remain in his place. This is a practical case and I want to know how I am to deal with it. What am I to do as representing Mr. Sutherland? How am I to convince the minister that Mr. Sutherland has the right to a trial? He does not seem to be willing to give it to him unless I show him that he has a right to it. Every man has a right to a trial who is accused of anything. The minister ought to be frank enough to say he will give him a trial and that if he is found innocent he will put him back in the position of which he was unjustly deprived.

Mr. MONK. The procedure indicated by my hon. friend is the procedure which we conceive as a general rule to be the proper one. I do not know if my hon. friend was here last night when we were discussing this question. I gave a number of instances of cases that occurred in 1896, when

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the method of dismissal was that one with this addition that there was no charge at all. Information as to the party who recommended the discharge was generally refused.

I gave instances last night of several discharges in my own constituency in 1896, and the then minister told me that the dismissals had been made on representations of members from the city of Montreal. There was no charge and no investigation. I have some cases in which Mr. Blair told me that he did not think it his duty to give the information as to who had made the complaint or as to who had recommended the man who took the place of the man discharged. An advance has been made, for if there is a denial of the offence an investigation is granted.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Has the minister the Sutherland papers on his desk?

Mr. MONK. Yes.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Would he be kind enough to show me the papers?

Mr. MONK. I will send them over to my hon. friend.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Inverness). The minister has been good enough to promise that an investigation will be held into the case of Mr. Kennedy. Now, Mr. Kennedy is no doubt at home attending to his business and some fine morning the investigator will turn up and Mr. Kennedy will not have an opportunity of knowing what the charges are.

Mr. MONK. Mr. Kennedy will be given the charges against him whenever he asks for them, and I suppose when the investigator holds his investigation Mr. Kennedy will have these charges before him.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Inverness). I understand that this man will give Mr. Kennedy due notice that he will investigate certain specific charges.

Mr. MONK. Certainly.

Mr. MACDONALD. There is a matter of some importance to my constituency and to the whole province of Nova Scotia, to which I would direct the attention of the minister. I speak of the proposition for the deepening of the East river in Pictou county to the town of New Glasgow. Some years ago a very important deputation representing the business interests of that community, which is one of the most advanced industrial centres in the maritime provinces, came to the then Minister of Public Works and sought the aid of the government to deepen this river with a view of enabling New Glasgow to have water connection for larger steamers which would bring natural products in