

whether or not under all the circumstances this poor woman might not be given back the office the duties of which she has attended to so well.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I did not intend to take any part in this discussion; but I happen to be acquainted with some of the facts in reference to this lady for whom the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) expresses so much sympathy. It appears that about ten years ago, at the time that hon. gentleman belonged to a temperance lodge out there, the lady in question kept a temperance hotel. My hon. friend was in the habit of going there at times. I myself, I think, have seen him there. Now, the hon. gentleman has said a great deal about the loyalty of Mr. McManus and about what he had done for the flag of his country. I happened to be there at the time, and I know all the circumstances of the case, and what this gentleman did for his country was to sell illicit whiskey.

Mr. BENNETT. Were you a customer?

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I do not know whether my hon. friend from Western Assiniboia got any of it or not. When I first knew this lady, she kept at Qu'Appelle station what they call in the west a dance-house, and not a respectable dance-house at that. I was surprised to hear that any person of that character was keeping a post office in British Columbia or anywhere else.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those cases which attract attention, not so much from the action of the Government, if based upon a reasonable report against the party implicated, as from the fact that the dismissal has been made avowedly not on the report of the officer sent to investigate the case, but on ex-parte statements like those of the member who has just spoken. It is quite probable that Mrs. McManus was not dismissed on the report of the inspector; but on the complaints of other people, like the charge of the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, that at one time she kept a dance-house—a charge which is not substantiated, and in which I am informed by the hon. member for Assiniboia there is not a word of truth. As I say, it is a case which attracts attention not so much on account of the importance of the position, but as throwing a light on the action of the Government in a great many cases of a similar character. Why is it that the Ministers refuse continually in this House to give any information to us as to the reasons why men are dismissed from employment? Why is it that they have dismissed this woman if there are no grounds or complaints apart from the report of the inspector? Why do they commit such an act of injustice as is shown by this report, and then shield themselves behind

the report, saying that there is no politics in the matter, although the remarks made by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down clearly prove that this is not a question of misconduct at all, but wholly one of politics. Where is there an office in this country as to which statements of the same kind as those made in regard to this office cannot be made? Where is there a district in which there are not to be found Grits and Conservatives? And if the votes of the Grits are taken against a Conservative officer, it can easily be said there are many in the district who would like to see the officer dismissed. That is all that this report says. How easy would it be to find people in any district who would like to see a Conservative officer dismissed, whether in a post office, a custom-house or an inland revenue office? How easy would it be, if there were Liberal officers in any of these positions, to get Conservatives in the district who would like to see them dismissed. And this is the ground put forward by the Government for dismissing this poor woman. Now, having, as the hon. member for Western Assiniboia says, some of that Irish blood in my veins which revolts against such an action as this, I deem it my duty to raise my voice in support of those who have spoken in favour of this poor woman, and to ask the Government to reconsider the action that has been taken. I draw the attention particularly to this case of the hon. Solicitor General, who, if he occupies any position in the Government, is there as the representative of the Irish Catholic people of this country. I ask him to take in consideration the case of this poor woman, and to see that justice is done her. He is there as acting Minister of Justice in this House. Let him not occupy the position of acting Minister of injustice. Let him consider this case in a spirit of justice, and I feel sure that the result will be that the Government will reinstate her in the office from which she has been dismissed.

Mr. McINNES. I was not in the House when this question came up, and I do not know exactly how it has come to be discussed. But as the party who has been dismissed was an officer in my district, I think I may make a remark or two on the question. An investigation was asked for into the management of the Northfield Post Office. So far from politics having had anything to do with the matter, as the last speaker has suggested, let me inform him that the parties who made the charges against Mrs. McManus were Conservatives who were among the strongest opponents I had in that district in the last election. An investigation was held and a report made. I have never seen that report. The ex-Minister of Finance seems to be more familiar with it than I am. He has, however, read statements from that report which I think would amply justify the Postmaster Gen-