

Mr. CASEY. Perhaps not, nor have we the slightest tittle of evidence to show that any hon. member on this side did. We have not even the assertion of any hon. gentleman in this House, made on his personal responsibility, that any hon. member on this side, signed such an agreement to give up his rights. But we have had it proven that an hon. gentleman who was and is still a member of this House, but who then supported the Government and is now in Opposition—the hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane) was guided in the disposition of the patronage in his county by an executive committee of his supporters, and that this executive committee not only exercised the patronage for that county, but, on their own confession, sold the patronage. Did the hon. leader of the Opposition then declare that his supporter had so conducted himself as not to be worthy of a seat in this House? That was one of those frequent occasions when the hon. gentleman was more profitably occupied than being a member of this House or a member of the Government, but he must have been aware of the facts, and he should be a little more careful, when he tries to throw clubs at gentlemen on this side, that he is not throwing boomerangs.

Mr. QUINN. I cannot boast of having had a seat in this House for the length of time the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) has enjoyed the honour, and perhaps it is on this account that I do not look at the facts put on record by the hon. gentleman who has brought up this charge, in the same light as the hon. member for West Elgin does. No doubt it is because I have not the same experience of the manner in which affairs of this kind are conducted, but as one of the younger members of this House, listening to the language of the hon. member for West Assiniboia and taking communication of the affidavit which has been read before this House, it is certainly a startling proposition to me, when a charge, involving not only the honesty of a member but the honesty of the Government, is placed before this House supported by the affidavit of two respectable, or presumably respectable, citizens, the original affidavit, it is true, not being here, but having been published in the public press of the district in which the occurrence is said to have taken place, the Government and the member of this House incriminated, or attempted to be incriminated by this charge, shall fold their arms, and say: Because the hon. member will not choose to make this charge on his honour believing it to be true, it is not necessary for us to answer. Now, what are the charges that have been made? The charge is directly made here that the Government of this country entered into an agreement with one of the members of this House that he should be the figure-head before the country as representative of that constituency but that he should surrender

into the hands of other persons, the power, the dignity and all the privileges of the position. The Government of the country is charged with having recognized an agreement of this kind. A member of this House is charged with having handed over to a committee the right to represent that constituency in any place except in this House, and yet he has not one word to say in defence of himself as against this charge. The affidavit is not directed against the individual alone, but, as I say, involves the Government because it says:

(1.) That the Dominion Government accepts Jno. R. McPhail as Government candidate at the next general election.

(2.) That Thos. O. Davis, M.P., agrees and promises to pay to Jno. R. McPhail the amount of expenses incurred in connection with the protest.

(3.) That Wm. Knox Graham Neilson, Alexander Selkirk Stewart, Jas. Macarthur and Jno. R. McPhail are hereby constituted an advisory committee to act with Thomas O. Davis, M.P., in all matters pertaining to the representation of Saskatchewan in the House of Commons and with the Dominion Government.

So that, as a matter of fact, by this agreement, the committee are the representatives of this division instead of the hon. member who sits in this House, and that not alone with the consent of the member himself, but with the consent of the Government, to act as a committee with the Government in all matters appertaining to the representation of Saskatchewan in the House and with the Dominion Government.

(4.) That no appointments to offices, &c., &c., are to be made by the Dominion Government, unless sanctioned and recommended by at least four members of the above committee.

That the signature of Jno. R. McPhail and Thos. O. Davis to this document were attested by Jas. Macarthur as witness.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a most serious charge, and the fact of that committee having been named or appointed in this district, probably throws light on the actions of the Government in discharging persons who have been employed under the Government heretofore and have enjoyed their positions for many years until the present Government came into power. Is it not possible that many of the employees of the Government who have been dismissed from office have been the subject of investigation, not of committees appointed by this House, but by committees formed in the manner indicated in this affidavit? Is it not possible that not merely one member sits here not by virtue of the votes that have been given, but by virtue of his subjection to a committee appointed in his own district whose behests he is bound to obey no matter what the consequences may be to himself or to the country? Is this state of affairs to be allowed to continue with simply the answer: We will not pay attention to it unless the charge is made by a member of this House. If so, it will be a revelation to many new members of this House who are