

present parliament, when he declared that no man would be dismissed without a fair trial, that no official would be dismissed because of his political opinions, that no man would lose his official position because of the exercise of his franchise; but if any official desired to be a partisan and engage openly in political warfare, the opportunity would be afforded him to do so freely by being dismissed from the service of the country. What hypocrisy it is to enforce such a law against Conservative officials, while permitting and approving similar actions on the part of Grit officials. It is quite certain that these officials would not risk their positions and engage in political warfare without being directed by their superiors in office to do so. The Minister of the Interior may view this question very much in the same light as did the ex-Attorney General of Manitoba, Mr. J. D. Cameron. When an hon. member of this House who was an engineer of the Department of Public Works of the province, the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Macdonnell), was accused of being an offensive partisan, Mr. Cameron's reply was: 'He is not offensive to us.' That made all the difference in the world. I desire, in connection with this, as an illustration of how the official axe has been wielded, to draw attention to a despatch sent from the city of Ottawa recently, to the *Free Press*, the organ of the Minister of the Interior. This is evidently an inspired despatch:

The Official Axe.

It Works Both Ways—Two Winnipeg Government Employees Dismissed.

('Free Press,' Feb. 13, 1900.)

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The Dominion government has dismissed Mr. Dan. Smith, inspector of public works in Manitoba, and R. S. Parks, formerly inspector of homesteads, and now of the Dominion Land Office, Manitoba.

This is where the venom comes in:

This has been done in view of the action of Hugh John Macdonald's government in dismissing provincial officials.

It was not because they were offensive partisans; had they been offensive partisans, they would have been dismissed three years ago. It was simply by way of retaliation for the action of Hugh John Macdonald in dismissing, in the undoubted exercise of his right, certain officials of his government. Because this was done, because this Czar was not consulted, he decapitated two officials who had taken no part in the elections whatever, simply because they were Conservatives. The despatch goes on:

Others will follow, and names will be given. There is said to be a considerable list ready, which will probably wait for the future action of Hugh John Macdonald's administration.

You see the threat held over the head of these gentlemen. But, any person who knows the Premier of Manitoba, will know that he will not be intimidated by such a puerile

threat as this—he is not built that way. But this action of the Minister of the Interior is due to the fact that one of these officials who was dismissed by the Manitoba government, was his own father, who held a position which was created for him, a useless position. The hon. member for Selkirk was engineer of the Public Works Department. Hon. Hugh John Macdonald dismissed him. But the hon. member (Mr. Macdonnell), will not find fault. In fact, he stated on the floor of the House, that he expected to be dismissed. He admitted that he was a partisan. Hugh John Macdonald combined his position with the position held by the father of the Minister of the Interior and saved the salary that had been paid to the latter. He saved one salary by combining those two positions, and because he dared to do that, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), swipes off the head, to use a vulgarism, of those two innocent officials. It is just such actions as those on the part of the Minister of the Interior that have caused his political death in the west, and while no greater service could be rendered to the Conservative party than the retention in the cabinet of the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), still we recognize that it is at the expense of the good name of our country; something which all true Canadians will prize more highly than any mere party advantage. I desire to state also as a confirmation of this, that the Minister of Public Works had promised one year ago that not a hair of Mr. Smith's head would be injured, that he was one of his best officials in the Dominion of Canada; and when he was interviewed a short time ago as to why he had dismissed him, he admitted it was the Minister of the Interior who brought pressure to bear upon him to dismiss this man, admitted it was done in the way of retaliation. It seems, therefore, that the Minister of the Interior, not content with doing what he said he was going to do when he came down here, run his own department, so far as dismissals of officials are concerned, he is going to run some other departments as well. You would imagine that the Minister of the Interior claims a patent for this dismissal business.

Now, the government take a great deal of credit to themselves for the so-called success of their immigration policy, without specifying the particular character of a considerable portion of those immigrants. I do not know if the Minister of the Interior is as much enamoured of the Gallians and Doukhobors as he was prior to his departure for the west. If he is, it only shows that he has been blind to public sentiment on this question. Possibly no portion of the hon. gentleman's speech, delivered as it was upon many occasions on that tour, fell flatter upon his audience, acted more as a wet blanket, than when he