

not wish to disturb the hon. First Minister in his seat. I do not know whether this was the right course to adopt or not, but at any rate it was the one which was taken. The hon. First Minister then elected to sit for Saskatchewan, and there was anxiety to have the new Controller of Customs (Mr. Paterson) sit for the constituency of Saskatchewan. It was felt desirable that he should have a seat in the North-west Territories, and suggestions were made to the Liberals in Prince Albert and other parts of Saskatchewan that he should be nominated and run for that constituency. Many people thought he would run, but the feeling was so strong, a certain under-current that I need not further particularize, was so effective, that the prospect of having the Controller of Customs run for the Saskatchewan division became dimmer and dimmer until it entirely disappeared. Then the condition of the Liberal party in that constituency was such that a brother of the present Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had to be brought from Calgary to act as peace-maker, and he filled that role with such success that he left the Prince Albert Liberals in a worse state of internecine war than that in which he found them. Well, if we are to trust to circumstantial evidence as well as openly-stated telegrams, the hon. First Minister then entrusted the mission of peace to a mutual friend of his and of mine, a leading official in the Indian Department, whom he sent to Prince Albert to arrange for the candidature of Mr. Newlands. This official, under the impression that he was calling on the present member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), called on a brother of that hon. gentleman, and it so happened that this brother, although close to the hon. gentleman in kin, is less than kind, at all events from a political standpoint. In fact, of all the Liberals in Saskatchewan, he was the most opposed to the nomination of his near relative, the present member for that constituency. It was a very interesting story at the time; and from the high and lofty view taken by the First Minister when we bring before this House the dismissal of public servants for interference in elections and active partisanship, I am greatly surprised that the hon. gentleman did not punish this official, who, by his own orders, had been guilty of what certainly the hon. gentleman himself would pronounce gross misconduct. Anyway this leading official, one of the leading officials of the North-west Territories, went to the Saskatchewan on a political mission, and so determined was he to keep his mission secret, that he did not take any of the other Liberals into his confidence, but went at once, as he thought, to the hon. member for the Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis). By mistake, however, he went to his brother instead, and was told by the brother, after he had heard the whole story, that he was entirely of different views. Then the whole thing was given away and got into the

Mr. DAVIN.

papers. On the 29th of September, the Saskatchewan "Times" gave an account of this matter which nobody has ever dared to contradict. After quoting a telegram that was sent from Prince Albert to the Winnipeg "Free Press," the Saskatchewan "Times" went on to say:

The above despatch from the "Free Press" correspondent here is correct in every detail, but the correspondent might have extended his report with all the particulars, as the whole transaction is now public property. The story leaked out in the following rather amusing manner. The Indian official mentioned in the despatch arrived in Prince Albert, and, wishing to keep his mission as quiet as possible, called on but very few Liberals. He had known Mr. J. O. Davis in the old days in the police force, and was not aware there was any other Davis a merchant and politician in Prince Albert. So, early on the morrow after his arrival, Mr. Indian Official called into Mr. J. O. Davis's store and imparted to that gentleman the information that he was Mr. Laurier's emissary to try, if possible, and unite the opposing factions of the Liberal party in Saskatchewan.

This high official, taking this prominent political part, and he a Reformer—why, Sir, it is incredible. There must be something wrong. This certainly cannot be believed.

He, of course, produced credentials from his chief, and proceeded to discuss matters political, and finally, after doing all the talking, intimated that, if Mr. Davis would not recede from his position and allow Newlands to get the nomination, they would have to do something for Newlands; and, as Mr. Barker, inspector of registry offices, was growing old, it was proposed to get rid of him and give the position to Mr. Newlands, and if this was agreeable, Mr. Davis could count on the support of the Government.

Here is another feature of the policy of the Government emphasized. Not merely are they to give positions to men because of political action, but they are to knife officials in order to make room for them.

The chagrin of Mr. Laurier's emissary may be better imagined than described, when he was told that he had given the whole thing away to a man whose greatest living desire was to see T. O. Davis and H. W. Newlands defeated. These are the facts, which are well known to the public, but have not hitherto appeared in print.

Well, time passed on, and still the Liberals of Prince Albert could not agree. The soothing hand of Mr. Sifton, of Calgary, had been irritating, and the irritation had gone on increasing, and the result was that month after month, week after week, day after day, the happy family of Liberals in Prince Albert and the Saskatchewan grew more and more irritated and determined to fight among themselves, and the irritation culminated in a contest between Mr. McPhail and the present member for Saskatchewan. What happened? The present member was elected, and it is notorious that there was good ground and good evidence to support the personal charges made against him and which would have disqualified him. What