

Hon. Mr. POWER—And they were all good Conservatives.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I do not know that.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman has made a great ado about the removal of one or two trackmen.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—One or two!

Hon. Mr. POWER—Well, there may have been more. The hon. gentleman, I presume, was acquainted with Mr. McEachern, who was superintendent of the railroad in 1878. Did not the hon. gentleman know him?

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—Yes, and a violent partisan; he was very demonstrative.

Hon. Mr. POWER—He was dismissed, at any rate, after the change of government. There was Mr. F. H. Brown, who was superintendent of stores on the railway.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—He was worse.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Well, he was dismissed. I presume that the places of these gentlemen were not filled by other Liberals. Then, Mr. Cunningham, chief engineer of the road, was also dismissed. Was Mr. Cunningham also a bitter partisan?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Does the hon. gentleman want answers to these questions?

Hon. Mr. POWER—Yes.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—He asks about Mr. Cunningham. In that case the office of engineer was done away with altogether, and no successor was appointed. Mr. McNab was appointed as superintendent of the road. He was an engineer himself, and was appointed, I think, at a smaller salary than Mr. McEachern had received for one branch of it.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That was long ago.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I can understand that the hon. gentleman from Victoria would not care to hear about ancient history, although it is only going back to 1884.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I am very fond of ancient history.

Hon. Mr. POWER—They had a list in 1878, and I am informed on credible authority—by the best authority—that the old list was changed immediately after the change of government, and I have no doubt all the men employed afterwards were not of the same politics as those who had been employed before. There was a new list submitted to the chief superintendent, from which those employes were afterwards appointed. Then, I presume the hon. gentleman from Marshfield was acquainted with Captain Williams, of the steam dredge. He had a salary of \$900 or \$1,000 a year. He was summarily dismissed without any investigation. William Mitchell, agent of the Marine Department, was, not long ago, after a secret inquiry and on some trivial charge, summarily dismissed from office.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Is this an argument of a plea of justification?

Hon. Mr. POWER—It is not a plea of justification. I have shown what the law and the practice in England are. I am showing now that the practice of hon. gentlemen opposite was not what they preach to-day, but was a practice more unfavourable to the employes than the English practice. These hon. gentlemen cannot expect us to take their statements, made when they are out of office, as to the proper doctrine, and substitute them for the doctrines they practised during their eighteen years of office. It is the case of the devil getting sick.

When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be,  
But when the devil got well, the devil a monk was he.

My hon. friend is very merciful and charitable now, but he was very different when the late government was in power.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—The first part of the hon. gentleman's speech was very entertaining, moderate and good; the latter part is very different.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not wish the hon. gentleman's compliments.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—We are not trying the old government. We are trying the present government.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I think probably the hon. gentleman from Murray Harbour will remember that two or three years ago