

pression could be removed only by a personal visit. But another reason was given for my visiting these workshops. I was told by the men who had worked there for some years, that in days gone by, in those halcyon days when better terms were not considered, when there was no occasion to raise a repeal cry, when my hon. colleague was the Minister of Militia of this country, he had visited the railway workshops, and that the men had a perfect right to expect from so humble an individual as myself the same amount of attention that had been paid to them by a Crown Minister. Now, as to coercion being exercised over the railway men, I never heard of it, I had no knowledge of it, and I do not believe it existed. As regards these civil servants to whom my hon. colleague referred, they were the most disturbing element we had in our election. The emissaries of my hon. colleague paid these civil servants very special attention. They cajoled them into believing that the Government would be upset, and then they threatened them with the loss of their positions if they did not vote for them. While one set of emissaries were threatening these men with the loss of their positions, another set were going round the Province promising every Dominion office, from the highest to the lowest, to some ardent supporter of repeal. They promised them all a dozen times over. It is well established in Halifax that a large number of these civil servants did not vote at all. I suppose no one can know how anyone votes under the ballot system, but it is currently believed that a very large number of civil servants voted for my hon. colleague; and I should find no fault with them for that, if they thought they were conscientiously serving their country by so doing, because I hold, and I have ever held, that a civil servant has a perfect right to vote in the manner he thinks will best serve the country, provided he does so in a proper and becoming manner; but I have a very different opinion of the men who canvassed and worked against the Government they served, and did so in a most offensive manner. I think those men take their political lives in their hands, and must be prepared to abide the consequences. As to the coercion of the railway men, I did hear of an instance of it. I heard in the country parts of the county of a case where some of the laborers, some of the trackmen employed along the Intercolonial Railway, had come to my friends to say they were very anxious to vote for Stairs and Kenny, but they were afraid to do so because they were told by the emissaries of my colleague that the Government was going to be upset and they would lose their positions if they voted for Stairs and Kenny. I heard of that instance of coercion. For such an instance as that I do not for a moment hold my hon. colleague responsible. No matter what the legal aspect of the case may be, it would be unfair for me to attempt to say that I hold that hon. gentleman responsible for that. In a constituency so large as ours, with some 11,000 electors—and over 8,000 votes were polled—I do not for a moment pretend to hold the hon. gentleman responsible for such a case as that. I merely state its existence, because I have the most undoubted and positive proof of it. It would be abject folly to attempt to coerce a class of men so sturdy, so intelligent, and so honest as the men employed about the railway departments of Halifax. They are a highly respectable and intelligent set of men, and it is a downright insult to their intelligence to tell them, under our ballot system, that they can be coerced into voting for one man or the other. They vote as they please. As regard these 400 civil servants who were coerced in voting for me, there is no man in the county of Halifax who knows better than my hon. colleague that, if 400 civil servants had been coerced into voting for the Government candidates, he would not have been here to-day. So much for the reference which my hon. colleague was pleased to make to the civil servants and the question of their coercion. But he was also pleased to refer to the fact that certain members of the

Government who were in Nova Scotia prosecuting their canvass had made reference to certain subsidies to some railways. My hon. colleague did not particularise any roads. I do not know, of course, to what roads he alludes, or to how many roads, but I had the pleasure of attending one or two very important meetings which were held in the city of Halifax during that election campaign, which meetings were addressed by the hon. the Minister of Finance, and on those occasions the only roads which I remember any reference being made to were the Short Line road from Oxford to New Glasgow, the Cape Breton Railway, and that road in western Nova Scotia county commonly called the Gap, which connects Pictou with Annapolis. Those are the only three roads I remember any reference being made to in that election campaign. I do not speak positively; I am speaking from memory; I may be mistaken. As regards these three roads, I believe that this Parliament had provided for their completion. I believe and I know that the people of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton have been clamoring for the completion of those roads for years. If I am not mistaken, my hon. colleague's friends, the Local Government of Nova Scotia, had by legislation expressed their desire that these roads should be completed. I am quite sure that, if these Cabinet Ministers came down to Nova Scotia and had not made arrangements for the completion of those roads, my hon. colleague would have been the very first man in Nova Scotia to assail them for their neglect of the most vital interests of the Province. In Nova Scotia, we take the liveliest interest in the development of our railway system, and instead of censuring the Government for aiding that development, I believe that the vast majority of the people of that Province feel deeply grateful to the Government of the day for having made arrangements for the completion of those important roads in which we in Nova Scotia are so deeply interested. I repeat my expression of opinion that in reference to the civil servants and in reference to the effects that these railway subsidies may have had in influencing the electors of Nova Scotia, these stories are all after-thoughts, for I find that after all these civil servants had been carefully counted and carefully canvassed by my hon. colleague and his friends; after the effect of these railway subsidies had been carefully estimated and gauged, my hon. colleague had not the slightest misgivings as to the result of the elections in Nova Scotia. For I find in the *Halifax Morning Chronicle*, of the 14th February, there is a report of a speech delivered by my hon. colleague in the city of Halifax a few days previous. I think it was delivered in the north end of the city, in College Hall, and I think that it was one of the most important speeches made by him during the campaign, and, Sir, in reference to myself, the hon. gentleman was pleased to say:

"It would be a dire misfortune to this community, and a very disagreeable position for myself if I had, I will not say the pleasure—of Mr. Kenny's company to Ottawa. But, gentlemen, I do not apprehend any such calamity. Mr. Kenny knows very well he has no chance in Halifax."

Now, Sir, that was the expression of my colleague's opinion as to the fate of parties in the constituency of Halifax, after all the civil servants had been carefully canvassed, and after any effect that the agitation of the railway subsidies may have had upon the people of that constituency, had been carefully calculated. But, Sir, I find that my hon. colleague was equally positive as regards, not only the constituency of Halifax, but the whole Province of Nova Scotia, for he goes on to say:

"On this occasion, while a general election is going on all over the country, it is of the utmost importance that the metropolitan county of the Province should speak with no uncertain sound. (Cheers.) We are hearing from all over the Province, and the accounts we receive are of the most cheering character. We find that from all parts of the country where the standard of the party has been raised the people are flocking