

sent to a Conservative getting a position there?

Mr. COPP: Yes.

Mr. CURRIE: You never did.

Mr. COPP: How do you know?

Mr. CURRIE: You never recommended one in your life.

Mr. COPP: How do you know that?

Mr. CURRIE: Go ahead and let us have the names of any you recommended.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steele): Order. I must request hon. members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CURRIE: Well, then, let me ask the hon. gentleman if he ever recommended a Conservative for a position on that road?

Mr. COPP: I may tell my hon. friend that I never had the opportunity to recommend any one.

Mr. CURRIE: You would not do so if you had.

Mr. COPP: I trust I may have the opportunity before very long to recommend men, and it is my sincere hope that I shall be able to bring sufficient influence to bear in order to secure a fair deal for every one. Whatever influence I have had, I have never yet asked to have a Conservative dismissed from office for any cause whatever. My hon. friend will pardon me if I am trespassing upon the time of the House, and I should be sorry to have my remarks worry him. But the hon. gentleman has taken up a great deal more time this session than I, and I do not know that he has been more instructive to the House than I have been in my contributions to the debates, whatever may be their value. I do not think it lies in the mouth of the hon. member to read me a lecture and to say how long or how short a time I shall occupy in my remarks. We might as well have a distinct understanding so far as that is concerned, and I may inform the hon. gentleman that I propose to discuss this matter as fully as I think proper. I thought I was keeping within the rules of the House, and I did not intend to do anything to hurt the feelings of any hon. member; but my hon. friend is so exceedingly sensitive that he seems to have become alarmed and is rushing to the rescue of the Minister of Railways. Now, I think the minister can get along very well without assistance from that

hon. gentleman. The minister and I have always got along tolerably well, and I was only telling him some things which I thought might be a guide to him in the future. I have no doubt that when the minister says that such-and-such is the case he believes that what he says is true; but when he tells me things that I know are not in accordance with the facts I think it is only right that I should so inform him. It is immaterial to my argument whether or not the Laurier Government dismissed all the Tories in 1896. I had no part in that affair, whatever may have been done, and if my hon. friend has anything to say in that regard I shall be glad to hear him. I know nothing about what the Government did in 1896 or how many men they dismissed, and, what is more, I do not care. Let me tell my hon. friend that I do not care how many Tories he places in office in the city of Moncton or elsewhere, but I do ask him and the management of the road not to tell people that politics has been thrown aside and that there is no further political interference in the province of New Brunswick in connection with the operation of the Canadian Government railways. I ask hon. gentlemen opposite not to put that forward as a fact, for I know better.

I want to refer to a certain matter and I would ask the minister to give it his particular attention. Indeed, I have brought it to his attention on different occasions. It has reference to a very deserving class of people, and I know that the minister will bear me out when I say that something should be done on behalf of these people, for they are placed in a most unfortunate and disadvantageous position at the present time. I am not bringing up this matter by way of criticism of the minister or of the management of the railways; I am simply anxious that something shall be done. I refer to the question of pensions under the Provident Fund Act which was passed in 1907. I think that was the first attempt to provide a pension fund for the employees of the Intercolonial Railway. I have not the Act before me, but I think, speaking from memory, it provided that the Government should make an assessment on the men in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway. The men were to pay a certain sum per month—I do not know the exact amount—and the Government would contribute a like sum in order to provide a fund for the superannuation of the employees as they were retired from the ser-