

resigned that office, he still held on to it, until one of the officials took it from him and tore it up on one of his trips. Here is a gentleman getting up in this House to talk about passes to others, when he himself travelled back and forth on a pass which he had no right to hold, once he had resigned his seat in the Executive Council.

Mr. FRASER. I would say in explanation that I did get a pass as a member of the Government, and travelled on it once. The first time I travelled on it, after I resigned, the conductor said he would take it up and did so, in which he was perfectly right. I was a member of the Government until that occurred, and did not travel on the pass after I had resigned.

Mr. McDONALD (Victoria, N.S.) Let the hon. gentleman say that he travelled back and forward on that pass in his county during the election, and then back and forward to Halifax, and here to Ottawa and back again, and then it was taken from him.

Mr. FRASER. I was in my county the whole time of the election. I can well understand the hon. gentleman's remark, from the character of the constituents who sent him here, as depicted by himself.

Mr. McDONALD (Victoria, N.S.) The hon. gentleman himself tried for a number of years to get a nomination for the county without success.

Mr. CAMERON (Inverness). There are quite a number of Dominion officials in my county who are Liberals or Reformers as you may choose to put it. They are Liberals simply because they were appointed by my opponent during the time he was in Parliament. Of that I do not complain. I think that every Liberal official of the Dominion Government has a perfect right to vote against me, but when I heard the leader of the Opposition laying down a rule, which will probably cut off the heads of many of them, I think it is my duty to call the attention of this House and the Government to the actions of some of them during the late Dominion election. I never complained of the conduct of any one of them, although I felt that their conduct at elections was frequently so offensive to myself and to the party I supported that they deserved dismissal. I shall call attention to the correspondence of the *Island Reporter*, which was anonymously signed "more anon;" and dated from Hastings, 25th December, 1890, and published in the Liberal paper called the *Island Reporter*, on 7th January, 1891. The writer says:

"Ever since the fishery bounty became in vogue it was customary for the people of Creignish, Long Point, and very largely for the people of Judique, to enlist their names as fishing claimants in Port Hastings. But recently the scene has changed. D. F.'s business has much developed; every new bounty man means a fresh customer to him, and modestly he whispered to Dr. Hugh Cameron to stop the fishing tide to Hastings in order to expand his mercantile scope from sea to sea. On being checked, Mr. Forbes rose for an explanation, asking Dr. Hugh, Why depart from the good old rule—that fishermen are not allowed to get their bounty here? With eloquence not very lofty, yet very pointed, the doctor did reply: Our pets must be fed, no hunger, no cold, must they suffer."

Mr. Forbes is a Customs official at Port Hastings, and he assists the agent of the Railway Department at the same place. Mr. Forbes, at the time, was actively engaged in canvassing against myself. A few days after this publication appeared in the paper, I met him in the streets of Hastings, and

Mr. McDONALD (Victoria, N.S.)

called his attention to this letter. I pointed out to him the fact that I never knew there was any change in the manner of disposing of the fishery bounties, that he never wrote to me with reference to it, and that I never gave him an answer. He admitted that such was the case. I said to him: As an honest man, it is your duty to contradict that false report published in the *Island Reporter* of 7th January, and unless you do so I will have reason to believe that, if the letter was not written by you, it was at least suggested by you. He promised he would do so. Not many days afterwards Parliament dissolved, and after the dissolution I happened to meet him again in Hastings, and asked him why he did not contradict the false statement published in the *Island Reporter*. His answer was that he did not see very well how he could do it. My reply was simply this: Mr. Forbes, it may be perfectly true that you had nothing to do with the writing of the letter; but whether you had or not, you are now equally guilty with the writer, because you are an accessory after the fact. This is one of the cases in question, whose head the leader of the Opposition would cut off immediately. I believe that such officials do deserve immediate dismissal. I have not lodged any complaint against him and I would not have mentioned it had not such cases been brought before the House. I say that the agent of the Railway Department, in whose office he worked, is the most vigorous and active designer in the Liberal interest in the party. I also say, that a number of the postmasters have gone to a greater length in attempting to defeat me than this official of the Government. A very respectable lady, a Mrs. Macdonald, has the post office in the village of Whyccomagh, and it was asserted by her friends that I had secured her dismissal about the time that Parliament was dissolved. I made no complaint against her, and as a matter of fact she was not dismissed. A brother-in-law of hers who occupies the position of postmaster at West Bay, made use of the report referred to, and another brother-in-law of hers at Port Hastings travelled from house to house complaining of my having dismissed their sister-in-law, who was a widow. This was without any foundation, in fact she was not dismissed at all, and yet a personal canvass was made against me on the ground of her dismissal, and that false report was the cause of a considerable loss to me in regard to votes in that constituency. If the principle laid down by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition is to be carried out, I have no doubt that all these officials will be summarily dismissed. It is not only the officials of these districts that I have found in very active opposition to the Government candidates. There are a large number of officials in other parts of the county, the friends of whom, it is true, do not go so offensively to work as these did, also vigorously opposed me. I always concede that they have a perfect right to vote against me, and also I say they have a perfect right to advise their friends that the policy of the Opposition, if they feel it is right, is one which would subserve the general interests, but, when they take such a prominent part in their party contests as those to whom I have referred, I feel that an investigation should be made, and that they should be dealt with as they deserve, and in exact accordance with the rule which has been laid down by the leader of the Opposition.