

was guilty of active political partisanship prior to and during the last election contest and, as a member of parliament, I ask for his dismissal on that account.

On March 22 the recommendation went forward for his dismissal. On April 2 he received notice of dismissal and on April 11 he sent to the commissioner of customs this letter:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of departmental letter of April 2 advising me that an order in council was passed dispensing with my services as a customs-excise enforcement officer on account of active political partisanship during the recent federal elections.

This notice comes as a shock to me, as I have not taken any part in politics, and I have always done my duty without fear or favour, as an examination of my record will show. I think this order is neither fair nor just and I appeal in all fairness that I be reinstated in the service and given a fair investigation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister; Hon. E. B. Ryckman, Minister of National Revenue, and A. T. Logan, Divisional Chief Customs-Excise Preventive Service.

Yours respectfully,

Norman MacDonald.

Then telegrams were sent, not by Mr. MacDonald or by personal friends of his, but by the social service council and by Mr. H. R. Grant, President of the Nova Scotia Temperance Association, protesting in the strongest terms against MacDonald's dismissal. On April 15, Mr. H. R. Grant wired the commissioner of customs as follows:

With reference to recent dismissal Preventive Officer Norman MacDonald social service council of Nova Scotia believes charge of active political partisanship cannot be substantiated. Request impartial investigation.

On April 14, the previous day, a longer telegram was sent, which is on the file, in which the Social Service Council of Nova Scotia protests against the dismissal of preventive officer MacDonald as follows:

The Social Service Council of Nova Scotia protests against the dismissal of Preventive Officer Norman MacDonald, who since his appointment has been doing excellent work in Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough. The charge against him is active political partisanship. From information we have we know the charge is unfounded. His dismissal would give satisfaction to the liquor interests and the baser element of the people of the province, and would outrage the moral sense of the law-respecting citizens. We further protest against the dismissal of any officer in the preventive service without an impartial investigation.

MacDonald ceased duty on April 15, the next day after this telegram was sent. A further protest was sent by Mr. Grant on May 13 when he wrote to Mr. Breadner, commissioner of customs, as follows. I am

leaving out the first part where he refers to Mr. Breadner's telegram:

I now write to ascertain if although "it is not the practice in such cases to have an investigation" an opportunity will be given Mr. MacDonald to produce evidence that he has not violated section 55 of the Civil Service Act.

We respectfully protest against the regulation of the Civil Service Commission, which empowers an individual member of parliament to be prosecuting attorney, judge and jury in such cases, and we ask for an impartial investigation.

In behalf of the Social Service Council and Temperance Alliance of Nova Scotia.

Yours sincerely,

H. R. Grant,
General Secretary.

On the 22nd April MacDonald sent in to the department a statutory declaration as follows:

I, Norman MacDonald, of Trenton, Nova Scotia, ex-customs-excise enforcement officer, appointed permanently by order in council passed on the 21st day of December, 1929, do solemnly declare:

That by departmental letter dated April 2, 1931, I was notified that an order in council had been passed dispensing with my services as customs-excise enforcement officer on account of active political partisanship. This notice was a complete surprise to me as I have not taken any part in politics in any way whatsoever at any time whatever since my appointment as such customs-excise enforcement officer, or since my temporary appointment to said office, made June 1, 1927, or for a long time prior thereto, and I have not at any time whatever while a servant or employee of the Dominion of Canada or any department of the government of the Dominion of Canada taken any part whatever in political activities of any kind, and I have always done my duty without fear or favour, and I submit that a fair investigation of my record as an officer will substantiate the facts herein set forth and show that I have had a record for efficiency at least a good deal above the average.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Norman MacDonald.

Declared before me at New Glasgow, this 3rd day of May, 1931.

A. Johnston Chisholm.

A commissioner of the supreme court of Nova Scotia authorized to take affidavits to be used in the supreme court of Nova Scotia.

What I am asking my right hon. friend, who has had a letter addressed to him regarding the matter, is that under the circumstances shown him, an investigation should be granted to this officer into the conditions of the case. Not only has this man given his own declaration, but we have had three different protests from the Social Service Council of Nova Scotia. The minister himself said that he