

and he also used up part of his Sabbath Day's rest for that purpose.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Was this in the Guysborough election?

Mr. BELL. In the election which occurred quite recently.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That was the election that was a redeeming feature in the maritime provinces.

Mr. BELL. The election which occurred quite recently in Guysborough and which has given a new member to the House of Commons.

Mr. EMMERSON. And a good deal of trouble to hon. gentlemen of the opposition.

Mr. BELL. I would like to send a little of that trouble in the way of the government and possibly a little of that trouble in the way of these officials who have undertaken to do this work. Then, Lewis Maguire, baggage master at Mulgrave, and William Maguire, fuelman at Mulgrave, brothers, spent several days canvassing in the Milford district for the government candidate. They were apparently allowed to go away from their positions and to occupy themselves in working for the government. Alexander Reeves, fuelman at Mulgrave, also devoted some time to canvassing Melford district for the government candidate. John P. Meagher, deck hand on government steamer 'Scotia' at Mulgrave, was an active worker in the interest of the government. On election day he was busily engaged with his team carrying voters to the polls. Chas. Crittenden, deck hand on the 'Scotia' was an active worker in the government ranks. John M. Grant, Intercolonial Railway policeman at Mulgrave, is a very active party man and always has been a hard worker. He is warden of Guysborough municipality. In the recent by-election he declaimed with noisy demonstration against weak-kneed Grits who have to be prevailed upon by money and other like means to vote for the party candidate and who himself scorned such sordid, corrupt things. This patriot has taken unto himself since the by-election the office of Intercolonial Railway policeman at Mulgrave with its emoluments, said to be \$60 per month. Some ten or twelve officials of the Intercolonial Railway were actively engaged in the by-election carrying on the work of canvassers during that by-election and that such a thing could be done without the knowledge of the management is so improbable that it is quite beyond any reasonable person's belief. The probability is that instructions were issued by some person in authority that justified this action on the part of these officials because they would not have employed themselves in this way unless they had had information to the ef-

Mr. BELL.

fect that their action would not be looked upon with disapproval by the government. What was the attitude assumed by the present government in reference to Conservatives? It was laid down by the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and other members of the government that while an official of the government might exercise his right to vote he might do so, but that if he went further and took any active part in a political fight he would be allowed to devote his whole attention to politics, which practically meant that he would be dismissed from the service. That has been the law which has been applied to Conservatives everywhere. In my own county a postmaster was dismissed for the reason that at a public meeting he had asked a question of a gentleman who was speaking in the interest of the government. That was an offence and he was dismissed promptly. The law laid down by the right hon. Prime Minister and acted upon by members of his government has been carried out, and that is that if a man who is not content simply with exercising his right to vote takes an active part as a canvasser or takes any active part in any other way in carrying on political warfare he takes his political life in his hand and will be dismissed. I ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals to inquire into these facts and to appoint a commission and that if proof is brought to his knowledge that the statements made in reference to the acts of his officials in the matter are correct he dismiss them and that he apply to them the rule which has been applied to Conservatives throughout Canada and which has been laid down as the policy of his party. Now, the hon. minister can no longer say that this matter has not been brought to his notice. I have brought it to his notice very definitely and I am satisfied that if he appoints a commission to make an inquiry into these statements they will be proved absolutely and to the hilt. In the recent campaign in Guysborough the government turned into that county not only one but many of their officials. The gentleman who occupies the very honourable position of warden of Dorchester penitentiary went all the way from New Brunswick to Nova Scotia and spent the whole day at the Forks polling place. His name is Mr. John A. Kirk, the noisiest and most demonstrative gentleman who ever occupied a position on this side of the House.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Does the hon. gentleman say that Mr. Kirk canvassed in the election?

Mr. BELL. I make the statement that he spent the whole day at the polling place.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I want to know if the hon. gentleman charges Mr. Kirk with canvassing?