

ion, and have the law administered, if we were bad enough to do it, according to the rule by which hon. gentlemen opposite administered it when in power, that is, for their own purposes.

Mr. WALLACE. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the present Government could appoint 215 revising officers? I think the law is that they cannot dismiss one, any more than they can a judge.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Do you mean to say that they hold office during good behaviour?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Then, the law as it stands, is ten times as infamous as I ever thought it. If it is true—I do not think it is—that hon. gentlemen opposite have passed a law making these revising officers permanent officers, holding their positions during good behaviour, and if it is the fact, which I think will not be challenged, that they have appointed party heeled in most of the electoral districts to carry out their purposes—

Some hon. MEMBERS. No. Name.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will not go beyond my own province. For years and years the law was administered in the province of Prince Edward Island by the county court judges; yet, because they administered it fairly, you dismissed them from their positions, and appointed the president and the secretary of Liberal-Conservative associations. Men who came from the committee rooms of the Tory party sat upon the bench to determine what men should vote for them.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he is aware that nine out of every ten of the revising officers in Ontario are county court judges.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not aware of it; and, so far as they are county court judges, no unfair criticism can be passed upon them. I am speaking of those I know of.

Mr. SPROULE. How can the hon. gentleman say a large majority of them?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Because I believe the majority were so. I was not aware that the majority of the revising officers in Ontario were county court judges. I am told that in the province of Quebec it is not so. But I am speaking of the part of the Dominion I know of.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman spoke of them as a whole, and said the large majority of them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, the hon. gentleman can give his explanation so far as the province

of Ontario is concerned. I can make my statement so far as the province of Prince Edward Island is concerned, and I know of what I speak, and the same rule applies to many parts of Nova Scotia.

Mr. POWELL. Will the hon. gentleman state what constituencies in Prince Edward Island his statement applies to?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. East and West Queen's, West Prince, and King's—every one of them. There was not a county court judge in any one of these ridings in the province of Prince Edward Island who was not dismissed, and there was not a revising officer appointed whom they did not take right out of the committee rooms—some of them the secretaries and presidents of the Tory associations in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) Is the hon. gentleman aware of any wrong action having been done by any one of those officers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not talking about wrong actions.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) They are just as honourable as you are, Sir.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not talking about the class of men they appointed. I am talking about what they hoped to do—what their intentions were when they appointed them; and I say that when they gerrymandered the Island and appointed these revising officers, they had only one object in view—

Mr. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) To give you a good, safe constituency, wasn't it?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But they did not accomplish their object, owing to the independence of the people.

Mr. MARTIN. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question? Will he please tell the House what president and what secretary of a Liberal-Conservative association were appointed revising officers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. Smallwood was the secretary of a Liberal-Conservative Association for the past ten years.

Mr. MARTIN. Where was he revising officer?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Either in East Prince or in West Prince—Mr. Charles R. Smallwood.

Mr. MARTIN. Who was the president?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. McQuarrie and Mr. Stewart.

Mr. MARTIN. Neither statement is true.