

the Government railways had been taken out of politics as soon as my friends in this House were defeated. Why, Sir, I could stand here and cite instances by the score, by the hundreds, yes, by the thousands, where after the change of Government in 1911 men were thrown out of employment, thousands of them, without the least regard for their experience or qualifications, for no other reason than politics. From 1911 up to a year or two ago when the road was taken over by the present Board of Directors, the whole staff was engaged by friends of the Government. It is not that I am finding fault with so much as that my hon. friend stands up and tells us who know better that there is no politics in the operation of the road. It might be all very well for him to tell that to people who do not know any better, but I have the information before me day after day and week after week, and I tell him that these things are taking place.

Mr. J. D. REID: Notwithstanding the fact that the hon. member takes issue with my statement, I say that I have not heard, and do not believe, that there is any politics in the operation of the Intercolonial. Might I also say that if the hon. gentleman has the information that politics is being carried on in the operation of the road, why did he not give me the information before? I would stop it promptly if I had the information.

Mr. COPP: My hon. friend should not be over-innocent regarding these matters. I have told him about it year after year. In any case, I do not need to tell him. The only difference between my hon. friend and myself is that I accept his word, but he does not accept mine.

Mr. J. D. REID: I thought the hon. member insinuated that I knew something about it.

Mr. COPP: No, I said just the reverse.

Mr. J. D. REID: Then I withdraw my statement.

Mr. COPP: I took great pains to say I knew the hon. gentleman would not write a letter to anybody on the road telling them to employ Conservatives. He does not have to.

Mr. J. D. REID: Does the hon. member wish to imply that I do it verbally?

Mr. COPP: Not at all. You would not do it. You do not have to do it. The men you placed in office years ago are there, and

[Mr. Copp.]

they do it for you. If my hon. friend does not know it, I can tell him that down in the city of Moncton there has not been a man employed on the Intercolonial for the last five years whose appointment has not gone through the patronage committee in the city of Moncton. A fight is in progress every once in a while between two men down there. One of them was my opponent, for whom I have the greatest personal regard and respect, and the other is the gentleman who was a candidate in the last election for a few weeks but finally withdrew. There is a fight between these two as to who shall have the patronage. For a time after the election they divided it. They said: It is your turn to-day, and mine to-morrow. So when my hon. friend talks about political patronage not being rampant on the Government railways he is very much mistaken.

Mr. CURRIE: May I ask a question? Whenever the hon. gentleman sees a poor benighted Tory getting a job on that railway, he calls that patronage, but when a Liberal gets a job that is not patronage. According to his theory if all the jobs were given to the Liberals there would not be any patronage on the railway. I understand that no one is given a position on the road except a returned soldier.

Mr. COPP: Oh, no.

Mr. CURRIE: It is pretty nearly that. Further, it is absolute nonsense for the House to waste time over the wails of the hon. gentleman about patronage. I took occasion once to spend three hours reading the names of men in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick who were discharged by the Laurier Government within two months after they came into office. On that occasion every Tory on the railway was discharged except those whose places could not be filled. It is like the pot calling the kettle black. If my hon. friend was in power to-morrow he would be the first man to claim his patronage and fire the Tories from the railway. We are so accustomed to hypocrisy of this kind in the House that the sooner my hon. friend gets off that and lets the House come to a close the better. He is not enlightening any one and is not making any point either.

Mr. COPP: I have waited in vain for my hon. friend to ask his question.

Mr. CURRIE: The question I want to ask you is this: Would you see a Tory get a position on that road? Would you con-