

that my hon. friend has spoken of, namely, political interference. The very moment that men come forward with applications to hon. gentlemen opposite what do they do? They say: We are Liberals; we will support you, and we want employment on the government road. Of course, if you get these men's votes you are willing to support their applications, and you do your best to get them employment on the road. You do not consider whether the road requires them or not, you are interested in getting the men employment on the road, because by getting them employment you get their support. I know what government supporters do; I have been there. I have been on the government side of the House, and I know that government members did the same thing as you are doing now in that regard. I found fault with it there, and I find fault with it here. I am willing to go so far as to say that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals does not know all these little things. Some of them he no doubt does know, but he knows what the system is, and the system is that which I am condemning, because it is wrong.

Mr. EMMERSON. Did the hon. gentleman ever bring to the notice of the House that his friends were exercising undue influence, or did he express the ideas which he now holds and favours? I call his attention also to the fact that the hon. member for South Lanark said that the system which he has been depicting now did not prevail under his regime, although my hon. friend says that it did prevail then in the same way as it does to-day.

Mr. INGRAM. I said that government patronage was exercised then on the same lines as it is to-day.

Mr. EMMERSON. Did you move a resolution to have it changed?

Mr. INGRAM. No, Sir; I got up in the House and condemned it, and I propose to do so as long as I am a member of this House, because in doing that I am doing my duty. It is not necessary to move a resolution. If the hon. gentleman will read 'Hansard' for several years back, he will find my views recorded against that system, and if the people understood to what extent the government railways are administered in that way, they would rise up in their might and condemn it.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I thought the object of our meeting here to-day was to pass these supplementary estimates for the Department of Railways and Canals, and it is time that all this trash and nonsense were dispensed with.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend from Victoria, Nova Scotia (Mr. Ross) is always correcting the House upon these small questions. I would like to read to the hon. gen-

tleman a letter, and to ask him whether he holds the same views now that he did in 1874, when he was Minister of Militia in Mr. Mackenzie's government?

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I can tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blain) that that letter was a forgery, and that I never wrote it.

Mr. BLAIN. Here is the letter:

Balls Creek,  
February 5, 1874.

Mr. Dennis Egan,  
North Sydney.

Dear Sir,—I must inform you that the government expects every man in its employ to vote for its supporters. This being the case I wish you to proceed to Sydney mines and poll your vote for Mr. M. Mackay.

Yours, &c.,  
(Sgd.) WM. ROSS,  
Minister of Militia.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). Mr. Chairman, I was returned by acclamation at the general election in 1874, I was returned by acclamation in the general election in 1872, I was returned in the general election in 1867, a record that no man who was ever in this House has had before.

Mr. COCHRANE. That has nothing to do with this letter.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). Just excuse me. After I won my election I went to the county of Cape Breton to assist Newton M. McKay, now deceased, in his election, and I stayed at Ball's Creek. A sleigh drove up, and I was asked to write a letter to Dennis Egan. I said that in my election in my own county officials of the government were allowed to vote against me, and that I would not do there what I was asked to do. The sleigh drove back, and a man from North Sydney, W. Exmore, now dead, wrote that letter and signed my name to it—forged that letter.

Mr. ALEX. JOHNSTON. Certainly, it is a matter of history.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). It is a matter of history. When that letter was brought up at the time I was Minister of Militia and Defence, I asked to have it produced and placed on the table of the House, but it was never done. They dared not produce it, and I say, before my Maker in heaven, that I never wrote that letter. I have said that publicly many times before this, and it is most disgraceful to bring that trash up now in this House. If there is any trash to be brought up in this House, that hon. gentleman is capable of doing it. It is scandalous.

Mr. BLAIN. It is quite evident that the hon. gentleman was pretty close when the letter was written.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I was not within five miles of where the letter was written.